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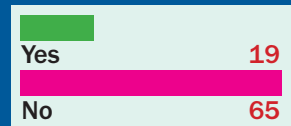
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POLL RESULTS

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?



Sunday, December 8, 2013

INSIDE

LOCAL



Hundreds converge at the Paseo de Marianas for the Christmas countdown. **► PAGE 13**



The Rotary Club of Saipan turns over toys to the Salvation Army. **► PAGE 19**



Marines and sailors reach out to the Tinian Elementary School. **► PAGE 20**

MICRONESIAN SUMMIT WRAPS UP

Climate change, growing health costs unite Micronesian leaders

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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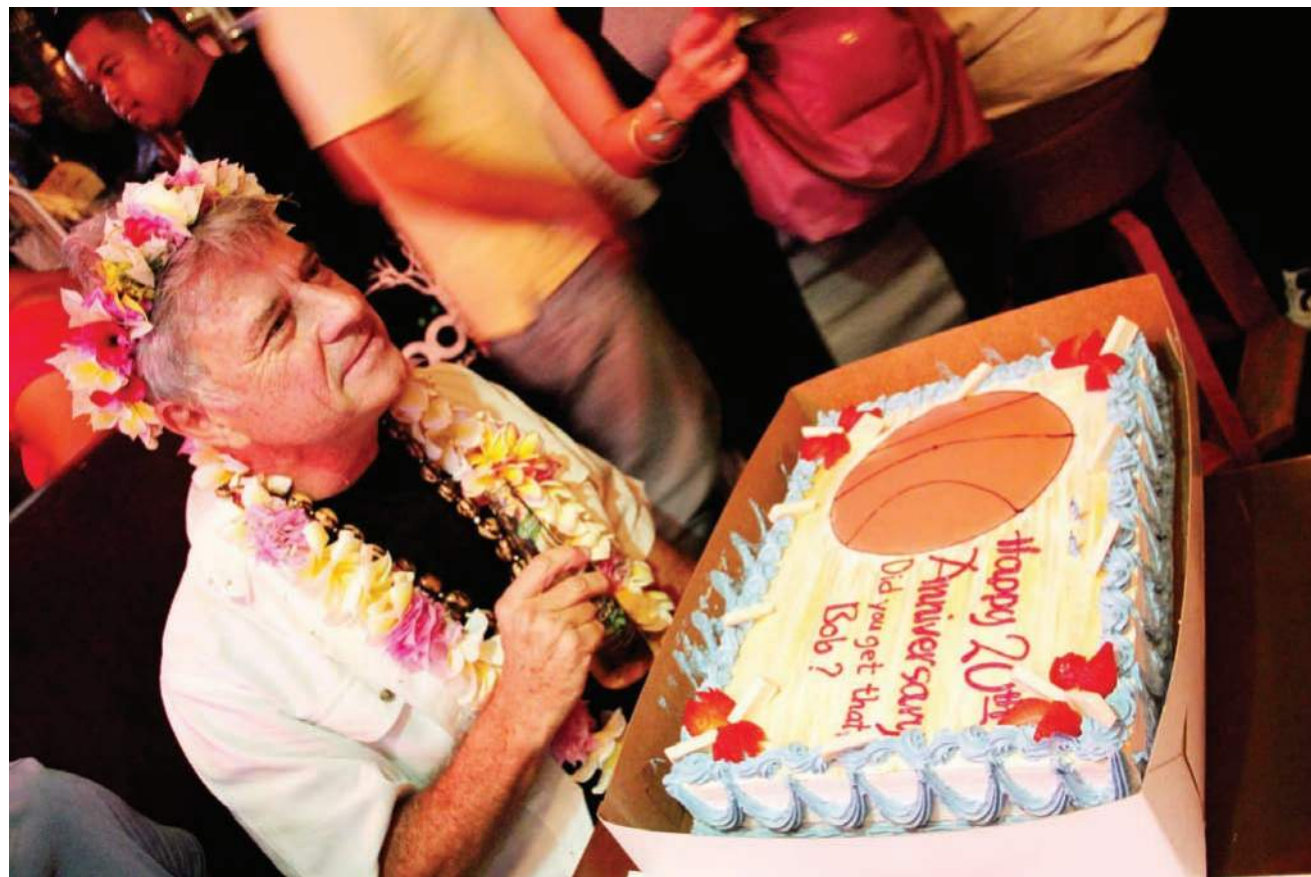
► See photos on
Pages 16-17

Seeking ways to address climate change and rising health costs, along with renewed commitment to work together as a group of islands, helped wrap up on Friday a three-day summit that brought together Micronesian presidents and governors on Saipan.

"While we have actively discussed our concerns on a host of issues, one of them stands out as the most common concern we share as a region: climate change," CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos said at the conclusion of the 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Friday.

Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, Palau President Tommy Remengesau, Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak,

See CLIMATE on Page 4



Micronesian leaders reflect on Mandela's legacy

» **Chief executives pay tribute to anti-apartheid leader, take moment of silence**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In the midst of discussing issues of common concerns such as a regional health insurance plan and developing a breadfruit industry on Friday morning, Micronesian presidents and governors took a moment of silence and reflected on the lasting legacies of the late South African president and anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, not only to the African nation but also to the rest of the world.

Mandela, who became South Africa's first black president after enduring 27 years in prison for his role in fighting apartheid, passed away on Thursday (Friday, CNMI time). He was 95.

At the 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, chairman and CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo spoke of Mandela's ideals and actions that have lasting impacts on islands as far

See LEADERS on Page 4

20 YEARS AND COUNTING

KSPN 2 sportscaster Bob Coldeen looks on after he's presented with a commemorative cake during a surprise party at the Godfather's Bar in Garapan Friday night to honor his 20th year as a sportscaster in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Few heirs to Mandela's symbol of freedom

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The passing of Nelson Mandela leaves a waning number of global figures representing freedom and resilience against oppression—and a changing world that makes it harder for anyone to approach Mandela's iconic power.

There are a few whose trials have made them symbols of freedom, including the former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, the Dalai Lama and, more recently, Malala Yousafzai, the

Pakistani schoolgirl turned women's rights activist.

But Mandela, the black revolutionary who emerged from 27 years in prison to embrace his white oppressors and lead a

See HEIRS on Page 4

This combination of 2013 file photos shows, from left, Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi; Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenager shot by the Taliban for promoting education for girls, and Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. **AP**



Rabauliman elected as new NMC board chair. PAGE 2
Negotiations between GTA, IT&E fall through. PAGE 3

Local

Rabauliman elected as new NMC board chair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has elected Frank Rabauliman as its new chairman during an election Friday.

Rabauliman was chosen to lead NMC's policy-making body in a unanimous vote.

Rabauliman conveyed his gratitude to the vote of confidence he received from his peers and pledged the board's full support to the mission and vision of the college.

Rabauliman was nominated to the post by regent Michaela Sanchez and this immediately seconded by regent Malua Peter.

Present at the meeting were six regents: Rabauliman, Sanchez, Elaine Orilla, and newly confirmed members Juan Lizama and Malua Peter. Joining the group was its newest member, Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, while regent William Torres participated via teleconference.

Rabauliman, in his message, recognized the hard work and untiring support of his predecessor, Lizama, for his leadership during one of the most difficult times of the institution—addressing the show-cause status of NMC's accreditation.

» Two regents reappointed, one new member sworn into office



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, swears in three members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents in a ceremony on Capital Hill last week. From left are reappointed regent Juan T. Lizama, new appointee Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, and reappointed regent Malua Peter. The three were sworn into office after being confirmed by the Senate Thursday.

As he formally assumed the chairman's seat Friday, Rabauliman outlined the direction he wants the board to forge.

"I would like to share my vision, being the new chair of this board: I'd like to see this board moving forward and be very deliberative in discussion of issues.

However, we should be mindful that we make sure we're on track. As the facilitator of this meeting, I expect everybody to come ready and have studied the issues for discussion. We won't dwell on one issue over and over again..." Rabauliman told members. He cited past instances

when regents often spent "too much" time discussing one issue over and over again.

He said he also looks forward to working with NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart.

Rabauliman pointed out that despite the submission of the show-cause report and the

completion of the accreditation team visit, NMC is not yet out of the woods, so everybody must work together to realize the affirmation it desires for the college.

The fate of NMC's accreditation is expected to be known after the accrediting commission's

January assembly. Hart and Rabauliman will be expected to participate in that assembly.

In Friday's election, Lizama was nominated to the vice chair position but he immediately declined the nomination. That led to the re-election of Elaine Orilla to the post, along with Malua Peter to the treasurer position. The two have served the same positions in past board leaderships.

For the three standing committees, Rabauliman appointed Lizama to head the personnel committee while Torres and Rechebei will handle the fiscal affairs and programs committees, respectively. The new committee heads were given flexibility to choose their members.

Also on Friday, Hart recognized Lizama for demonstrating commitment and full support for the college, especially on the issue of accreditation. She lauded Lizama's leadership for making difficult decisions on college policies. Among these policy decisions are the removal of honorary regents and the imposition of a minimum qualification for faculty—which both received some criticisms from some sectors. Hart said she looks forward to working with the new board leadership.

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Printing is funded by the Cooperative Agreement for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance and Integration.



Negotiations between GTA, IT&E fall through

A ranking executive of Guam-based GTA Services LLC disclosed that negotiations between the company and its competitor, IT&E, have failed, leaving the parties to await their chances both in court and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

GTA TeleGuam executive

vice president Daniel J. Tydingco also told *Saipan Tribune* that the company remains committed to expanding its business to the Commonwealth.

"GTA remains interested in expanding services to the CNMI for the benefit of subscribers here and there," he said.

The official revealed that

both GTA and IT&E were asked by parties to try to sit down and negotiate but these efforts have all failed.

"We were asked by parties if we could sit down and negotiate a stipulation with IT&E. Efforts to reach a stipulation have been unsuccessful and our local CNMI legal counsel, Mike

Evangelista, has notified the CNMI PUC of that recently," said Tydingco.

He disclosed that the disposition of the legal case that IT&E filed on Saipan will proceed with the CNMI court.

"We will be awaiting direction and instructions from both the court and the PUC,"

he added.

In October 2011, the CPUC approved Guam-based GTA's application to provide local exchange services within the Commonwealth. The company initially planned to begin operation in the CNMI in mid-2012 but that did not happen after IT&E sought

a rehearing on GTA's application and then filed a case against the CPUC on the decision it made on GTA.

GTA's entry to the CNMI was supposed to be the company's first major coverage expansion outside of Guam since it was privatized in 2005. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

Hino touts growing Japan-CNMI student exchange programs

Cultural ties between the CNMI and Japan continue to flourish despite a decline in Japanese tourist arrivals that was precipitated by the departure of Japan Airlines in 2005.

Japan Consul Koji Hino said the cultural ties between the two islands are being cultivated by the growing number of student cultural exchanges between the CNMI and Japan.

"Student exchanges have

been remarkably active between CNMI and Japan. In August, the Kakehashi project—called 'Bridge for Tomorrow'—of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs had invited 23 students of Marianas High School to Japan," he said Tuesday when the Consular Office of Japan hosted local dignitaries and overseas Japanese during Emperor Akihito's 80th birthday celebration at the Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Hino said CNMI exchange students stayed in Japan for about 10 days and enjoyed various cultural exchange programs and home stay in Kyushu.

"After their trip to Japan, some students expressed their wishes to study at Japanese universities. This is marvelous. I hope that more CNMI students focus not only on U.S. universities but also on Japanese universities in the future."

Last September about 50 students of the Ehime University came to Saipan for educational training.

"At that time, the professor of this group told me that Saipan is a suitable place for this kind of training because the security is good and application procedure is very simple. His remarks were good news to me."

The Izumi High School in Osaka is also planning to visit Saipan next year.

"Student exchange is reach-

ing high level these days, and we can expect rosy future in this area. This is a new and welcome trend," said Hino.

Hino also asked for the CNMI's support for Japan's bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

"As you probably know, Tokyo was nominated as the venue for the Olympics in 2020. Until then we should do our utmost to achieve complete recovery from the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami. Otherwise

Japanese government cannot receive the understanding and support from the participants and visitors from all over the world. I would therefore like to

(Mark Rabago)

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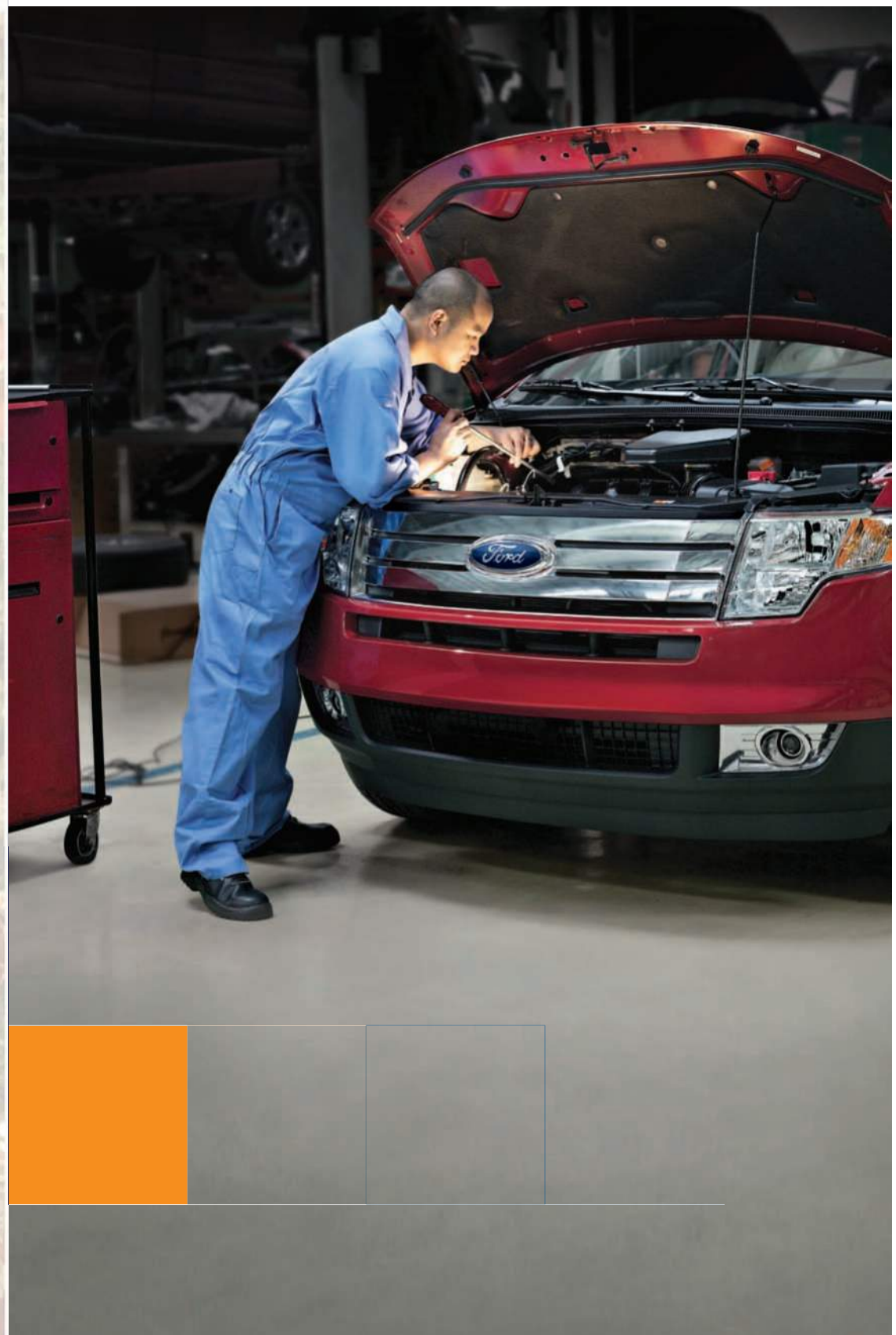
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CLIMATE

From Page 1

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, Yap Gov. Sebastian L. Anefal, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, Chuuk Attorney General Sabino Asor representing Gov. Johnson S. Elimo, and Kosrae Lt. Gov. Carson Sigrah also took turns espousing the need for more global action on climate change, among other things.

They were one in saying that tiny Micronesian islands bear the brunt of climate change impacts—from rising seas and disappearing coastlines, to dying crops and displacements of islanders—yet they are the least contributor, if at all, to carbon emissions.

Anefal, one of the longest members of the MCES, said the developed nations that are the main carbon emission sources should help fund Micronesian islands as they cope with climate change.

Inos, for his part, said Micronesian islands “must continue our partnership with each other to demand action against large carbon emission producing nations devastatingly contributing to climate change and adversely impacting our fragile island communities.”

“We are already seeing significant effects of climate change in our islands, our shorelines, and our coral reef ecosystems,” said Inos, chairman of the 19th MCES.

The island leaders reiterated their support to Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo as he takes on the duties and responsibilities of being an appointed member of the presidential task force on climate preparedness and resilience.

“I am glad that we are all ready to support Governor Calvo with the necessary tools he



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man in traditional Samoan costume prepares a ceremonial offering to Micronesian leaders at the conclusion of the 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan Friday night.

will need to defend our cause in his capacity as a member of the President's Task Force on Climate Change. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by. We cannot do it alone. Our governments must craft and implement sound policies,” Inos said.

In turn, according to Inos, Micronesian governments, nongovernment organizations, businesses and communities must support and invest in technologies that focus on energy efficiency, energy conservation, and clean, renewable energy sources that will reduce green-

house gas emissions.

Regional health insurance plan

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures president and Guam Speaker Judith Won Pat, along with StayWell Insurance-CNMI operations manager Eric Plinske, briefed island leaders on ongoing efforts to provide universal health insurance to Micronesian islands to lower the costs.

This comes at a time when the CNMI is facing 30- to 45-percent increase in health

insurance premiums for government employees and retirees unless the government finds innovative ways to keep the costs affordable yet still meet members' needs.

The Inos administration expects the government's health insurance cost to increase to some \$25 million in fiscal year 2014, from \$18 million in fiscal year 2013.

One proposal that the government is considering is to require persons living in the U.S. mainland to enroll in U.S.-sponsored health care exchange programs because they would be more affordable to retirees.

All of the proposals for coverage that the CNMI government has received call for cost increases and reduced benefits.

Current provider Aetna did not participate in the latest government request for proposals for health insurance.

Plinske of StayWell, one of the two bidders for government health insurance coverage, cited the advantages of having a regional health plan, including a greater bargaining power if there are more members enrolled.

He said there will also be a unified health plan benefits across the region, pre-authorization and utilization management, lower administrative costs, centralized claims adjudication and technology to improve efficiency and continuity of care, among other things.

Won Pat and Plinske also talked about the opening of a new \$219-million, 130-bed Guam Regional Medical City in 2014.

‘Solutions, not problems’

In his closing remarks as MCES chair, Inos said that, while it's true that it is people who make the difference, people also cre-

ate problems.

“As leaders of our communities, let us exert our energies on crafting sensible solutions, not problems. We must make the difference, not just accept the status quo,” he added.

Palau's Remengesau reiterated the summit's theme: “The oceans don't divide us, it unites us.”

The CNMI governor also recognized the efforts of the Micronesia Challenge, and how the region is leading the way in protecting nearshore marine and terrestrial resources “which encompass a large part of addressing the impacts of climate change.”

He thanked his fellow Micronesian chief executives, along with the rest of their delegations and other participants, for taking the time to visit Saipan. Inos also thanked the committee members and

organizations that contributed to this year's summit.

The next Micronesian Chief Executives Summit will be held in Yap in the FSM.

After the signing of resolutions and communiqués, the Micronesian leaders also took turns presenting gifts to each other. The most elaborate offering was from individuals from American Samoa led by Dr. Failautusi “Tusi” Avegalio, who said the spirits of their ancestors won't be at peace until they offer sincere thanks to leaders of Micronesia that served as refugees for Samoans during the war.

The three-day summit, which started on Wednesday, saw at least 13 presentations that also covered telecommunications, education, tourism, workforce, energy, transportation, shark protection, invasive species, and biosecurity.

LEADERS

From Page 1

away as Micronesia.

“It was all about equality and freedom for all people. And as we look at the surrounding membership here, we are [among] the youngest democracies in the world, here represented in Micronesia, fighting for the same cause of individual liberty. We have some of the youngest member states that have taken full political maturity and as well as American territories still looking forward...to full political self-determination and autonomy,” Calvo told the crowd at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Calvo spoke of Mandela's fight against apartheid, a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race.

This comes at a time when the CNMI, a U.S. territory, is weighing two pending national immigration reform bills in Congress that has a provision granting pathway to improved status for long-term, legal aliens in the CNMI. The same bills—S. 744 and H.R. 15—grants a pathway to citizenship for some 11 million undocumented aliens in America.

Guam, for its part, is also on its continuing quest for political self-determination.

Inos and Calvo said it's only fitting that as the summit was coming to a close, they also honor Mandela whom they both described as a “great man.”

“A moment of silence for the passing of a great man not only for the people of South Africa and Africa, but for peoples all over the world,” Calvo said.

Inos said islanders share the same values that Mandela espoused.

“Quest for advancement, our political future, so I think it is proper that we take a moment to reflect on the passing of a great man,” Inos added.

Friday marked the last of the three-day 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, which brought together nine Micronesian presidents and

governors or their representatives, to discuss and take action on issues of common concerns such as climate change and environment, economic development, healthcare, and human trafficking.

The summit brought together the leaders of the CNMI, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated of Micronesia and its four states—Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae.

Around the globe, people are mourning Mandela's passing and are paying tribute to his life of sacrifice and profound commitment to equality and freedom.

U.S. President Barack Obama, the first black president of the United States, called Mandela “a man who took history in his hands, and bent the arc of the moral universe toward justice.”

“We will not likely see the likes of Nelson Mandela again. So it falls to us as best we can to forward the example that he set: to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love; to never discount the difference that one person can make; to strive for a future that is worthy of his sacrifice,” Obama said in a White House briefing on Thursday.

South African President Jacob Zuma said, “We've lost our greatest son.”

CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), also paid tribute to Mandela, “who led South Africa from a state of division and oppression to become a rainbow nation.”

“His allegiance to this principle of equality cost the great man 27 years behind bars, which President Obama remembered in a eulogy yesterday, repeating Mandela's own words from the prisoner's dock: ‘I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.’ Though Nelson Mandela has passed on, let us all keep his ideal alive,” Sablan said.

HEIRS

From Page 1

new South Africa, may be one of the last of a breed for all sorts of reasons—including the circumstances of his heroism, his extraordinary success and the onset of an age when heroes' foibles are often exposed.

“He lived and worked in a context and historical period where his extraordinary individual qualities could help make change in his country and ripple throughout the world,” said Daniel Calengaret, executive vice president of the Freedom House, a watchdog group working to expand freedom around the world.

“It's hard to think of someone who was both an iconic dissident figure and was actually central to building a new system,” Calengaret said.

Mandela is often mentioned in the same breath as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who also changed nations through nonviolence. Yet Gandhi and King were killed before their dreams were realized.

Suu Kyi, the Myanmar pro-

democracy leader, was imprisoned by the military regime for 15 years before she was released and won a parliamentary seat. Yet she battles in a political arena lacking the stark racism of South African apartheid, which deprived the black majority of equal rights.

“She stands for the end of a dictatorship, not the end of a racial system,” said Dores Cruz, a University of Denver anthropology professor.

Cruz said that the dismantling of communism by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is comparable to Mandela ending apartheid. But Gorbachev did not suffer personal persecution to do it.

She noted that Mandela's image was carefully constructed for political purposes in pre-Internet South Africa, then burnished over the years by international media, musicians and Hollywood.

“The impact that has had on the historical imagination, you probably won't find that in anybody,” Cruz said. “No one has the same iconic image or same historical status.”

The Dalai Lama, a Buddhist

figure seeking the nonviolent restoration of Tibet's independence from China, has lived in exile for more than 60 years. And there is an ethnic or racial aspect to the Tibetan struggle, as China seeks to wipe out its traditional culture and replace it with that of the Han Chinese.

“Like Mandela, the Dalai Lama represents the decades-long suffering of his people. And he articulates a peaceful possibility in response to violence and aggression,” said William Edelglass, a Marlboro College philosophy professor.

“Like Mandela, he inspires us to the better angels of our nature,” Edelglass said. “He reminds us of how we really want to be.”

But at age 78, with China firmly in control, the Dalai Lama is unlikely to see a free Tibet. And his Buddhist religion sets him apart from Mandela, who enjoyed a type of secular sainthood that transcended religious divides.

Malala, the 16-year-old Pakistani girl, achieved global prominence last year when the Taliban tried to kill her for advocating the equality and education of women. After Man-

dela's death, she called him “my leader.”

In the past, other politicians suffered to reform oppressive regimes—Lech Walesa in Poland or Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia. But the peak of their careers came at the moment when the old regime crumbled, Calengaret observed.

“In a sense Mandela's greatest achievements were as president,” he said. “He was on top, he could do anything he wanted, and he chose to push for reconciliation and inclusiveness.”

Mandela's rise might have been complicated had it happened during the Internet age. Mandela had his share of flaws, including infidelity and a past embrace of violence, but they were overlooked. The volume and speed of the information traveling around the world today makes it impossible for a leader to climb without his or her every weakness being magnified.

“One of the things about Mandela that makes him unique, all those years in prison, he couldn't be really doing bad things during that time. And he lived prior to universal access,” said Edelglass.

CNMI govt, DOJ finalizing end of 1999 consent decree

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government and the U.S. Department of Justice are currently working on a joint request for the federal court to end the consent decree that the Commonwealth forged with DOJ in 1999 to address conditions of the old prison.

At a status conference in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday, assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, told the court that a joint motion is being finalized to terminate the consent decree.

Jeffrey R. Murray, a law-

yer with the DOJ Civil Rights Division, who appeared at the hearing telephonically, echoed Sablan.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set another status conference on Jan. 6, 2014. That hearing will, however, be vacated if the parties reach a resolution before Jan. 6, Manglona said.

Also present at the hearing were Department of Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, DOC director Gregory Castro, and DOC captains



Manglona

Georgia Cabrera and Jose Pangelinan.

In June, Sablan told the court that medical care for inmates and detainees and the safety of juvenile detainees—the two outstanding issues in the consent decree—have already been addressed.

The CNMI was forced to build the adult prison in Susupe under the consent decree after DOJ sued the government over the then-deplorable conditions of the old prison. Construction of the new prison facility in Susupe began in 2002 with an initial cost of about \$17 million that later ballooned to \$20.9 million. The new prison opened in 2008.

Saipan birders invited to take part in 114th Annual Christmas Bird Count

For more than 14 years, Saipan has been a part of the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, a long running winter tradition.

Each year from approximately mid-December through the first week in January, birders and volunteers across the western hemisphere participate in this daylong event.

Because of the widely publicized announcement of the elimination of the CBC participant fee for field observers in 2012, an unprecedented number of people volunteered to count. As a result last season surpassed all previous records. A total of 2,369 individual counts and 71,531 people tallied over 64 million birds! Counts took place in all 50 states and all Canadian provinces, and 103 CBC count circles were tallied in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands.

The volunteer-generated data that are a result of this event have become an important part

of the U.S. Government's Natural History Monitoring Database. Thus, the CBC is a great opportunity for bird enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels to make a significant and useful contribution to science.

Come take part in this fun and free daylong event! Simply meet us by 6am on Dec. 24 in the American Memorial Park parking lot with water, snacks or food, paper, pencils or pens, and binoculars and field guide if you have them (it's OK if you don't own either, come anyway). As you'll take part in both roadside and walking surveys, please come appropriately attired.

Paul Radley, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, will be leading and organizing the count. If you have any questions or are interested in taking part in the counts on Tinian (Dec. 16) or Rota (yet to be determined), call or e-mail Paul at 664-6011 or paulradleycnmidfw@gmail.com. (PR)

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BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a business meeting at 2:00 p.m. on December 10, 2013 at the CNMI State Board of Education Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan, to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda will be available at the meeting for public inspection. Questions regarding the agenda should be referred to Ms. Lillian Tenorio, Esq., who serves as counsel to the Commission's regulatory consultant, at 670-234-7850.

AGENDA

- Administrative matters:**
 - Call to order; approval of agenda; determination of quorum
 - Approval of minutes of October 17, 2013 business meeting
 - FY14 amended administrative budget
 - Resolution re repeal of \$135,000 ceiling per P.L. 15-35 §8421
 - MTC FY14 assessment order
 - Administrative order – CUC billing dispute appeals [P.L. 16-17 §8158(a)]
- Docket 13-01: CUC Electric Division: LEAC adjustment.**
- Docket 09-3: MTC and PTI annual use certifications**
- Other business**
- Public comments**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-004

**AIRPORT ROAD RESTORATION FOR SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA
EXTENSION PROJECT, SAIPAN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Airport Road Restoration for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

This work consists of excavation of flowable fill, and installation of asphalt concrete to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to install the San Vicente Service Area Extension Waterline project. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and the Department of Public Works. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **30 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) on an electronic disk file; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **November 27, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Airport Road Restoration for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 2, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

Poisoned mice are dropped in Guam to kill brown tree snakes

By **JOSH LIEBERMAN**
WWW.ISCIENCETIMES.COM

In an effort to eradicate an invasive snake species plaguing the United States territory of Guam, the U.S. dropped 2,000 dead mice laced with acetaminophen over Andersen Air Force Base on Sunday. The mice are bait for the brown tree snake, which is highly sensitive to acetaminophen. Just 80 milligrams of the stuff—one-sixth of a standard pill—is enough to kill a brown tree snake.

The brown tree snake has wreaked havoc on Guam since sometime after World War II, when the species was accidentally introduced to the country via a ship's cargo. With a current population of two million, or 13,000 per square mile, the snake has decimated Guam's exotic bird population, which it likes to dine on. Of Guam's 12 native forest bird species, ten have become extinct since the introduction of the brown tree snake.

The brown snake also causes power failures at Andersen Air Force Base by getting into electric substations. The snake causes about 80 power failures a year at Andersen, costing \$4 million a year in repairs, according to a 2005 estimate.

Enter the acetaminophen-laced mice. Sunday's helicopter

drop was the fourth one so far, part of an \$8 million program to combat the snake. Dan Vice, the Agriculture Department's assistant supervisory wildlife biologist for Guam, told KUAM News that the process is "quite simple."

"The cardboard (in the mini parachutes) is heavier than the tissue paper and opens up in an inverted horseshoe," said Vice.

Defendant in GIG riot pleads guilty, gets 30-day sentence

One of three men facing charges for a brawl outside the GIG Discotheque in Garapan in December 2011 has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a 30-day prison term.

Kenneth B. Salas pleaded guilty Friday to riot, assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal with the government.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Salas to two and a half years in prison, all suspended except for 30 days.

After completing his sentence, Salas will be placed on probation for two years. He was ordered to pay a \$200 fine, \$200 in probation fees, and \$100 in court costs. He was required to perform 100 hours of community service.

Throughout the duration of his probation, he is barred from

"It then floats down and ultimately hangs up in the forest canopy. Once it's hung in the forest canopy, snakes have an opportunity to consume the bait."

A brown tree snake dies 72 hours after eating one of the mice. Any other animal that consumes the mouse, like a pig or a dog, is unlikely to be harmed by the acetaminophen. The dose is large enough to kill a snake, but small enough that it would take hundreds of the acetaminophen-laced mice to kill a bigger animal.

coming within 250 feet of GIG and is not allowed to consume any alcoholic beverages.


The Office of the Attorney General charged Salas with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, riot, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge of assault with a dangerous weapon was dropped.


The incident occurred on Dec. 17, 2011, when Salas, Perry Tudela, and Zachary King punched and threw glass beer bottles at Keith K. Nabors and Juanis B. King.

The charges against Tudela and Zachary King are pending in court.

According to court papers, the bar fight broke out during a party after a mixed martial arts event. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-14-003

**Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank
at Power Plant No.1, Saipan**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals (Request for Proposals – RFP) from qualified and experienced Tank erection / installation firms for correction of existing defects, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the proposal document and monitored through a construction management firm and a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and Integrity Inspection Program.

The Saipan Power plant is located in the Lower Base Industrial Area near the Saipan Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a US based company and the tank assembly kit was supplied to Saipan port by the same company, United Industries Group, CA (UIG) for installation by a local contractor. The previous construction contractor has been terminated due to default and performance issues while the metal work and welding work was in progress. The project is currently in a partially finished state.

The purpose of this RFP is to ensure the CUC is to ensure that the new tank is built to the codes and standards to which it was originally designed, including the corrections necessary, details of which have been described in the RFP and meets the stringent tests and inspections noted therein. Upon being awarded the contract and receiving the Notice to Proceed (NTP), the contractor will complete the correction as provided in the RFP. Following schedules shall be noted by all vendors:

- Contract Award - February 6, 2014
- Notice to proceed / site mobilization - February 13, 2014
- Tank completion - July 8, 2014

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon request, to all interested proposers, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 18, 2013.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled at the Saipan CUC Power Plant 1, administration building on December 18, 2013 at 10:00 AM, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Six(6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-003 - REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Completion of Installation of a New 500,000 Gal. Diesel Fuel Tank at Power Plant No.1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than December 31, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Upon award of the contract the Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.


A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.


All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00am (ChST) on December 20, 2013, to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Petroleum and Compliance Manager, Mr. Andrew Longworth at andrew.longworth@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES**



RFQ14-GOV-017

Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting statements of qualification (SOQ) from licensed architectural and engineering firms (A&E) for the Design of the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The full Request for Qualifications (RFQ) documents may be obtained by contacting Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, by telephone at (670) 664-2274 or by email at psas@saipan.com. All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 pm, November 22, 2013 to Mr. Sasamoto by facsimile at (670) 664-2279.

The design and construction of the Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project is made possible by a grant from the Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA), U.S. Department of the Interior and requires a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance.

One original and four (4) copies shall be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 PM. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013.**

The SOQ shall be marked **"Gualo Rai Reservoir Replacement Project, RFQ14-GOV-017"**. For firms within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013.** Firms located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on December 11, 2013,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procurement@pticom.com. For firms located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of SOQ must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 11, 2013** AND must be received no later than **December 20, 2013.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all SOQ and to waive any imperfections in any SOQ if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All SOQ shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor, CNMI

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Siberia welcomes new executive chef

Siberia Restaurant welcomed a new executive chef last month and Boris Shugal is already promising to introduce fusion cuisine at the Russian restaurant.

The 55-year-old Shugal is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute (now the International Culinary Center) in New York. He has over 30 years of experience and has worked in the U.S. mainland, Aruba, Canada, Germany, and Italy.

By his own admission, Shugal said Siberia Restaurant's menu is "too Russian" and he wants to shake things up a bit.

To this end, Shugal will be introducing a more diverse lineup by incorporating other cuisines—French, Asian, and continental ways of cooking and preparing food.

Shugal, a native of St. Petersburg, said that loyal patrons of Siberia Restaurant should expect more steak and pasta dishes in the future as well as a more westernized beef stroganoff. He said he wants the restaurant to offer traditional Russian dishes with a western and American twist.

Shugal said he cooked his first meal when he was 6 when he and his playmates became hungry after playing outside. To his recollection, his first dish was an omelet "with everything on it." At over 6 feet tall, he also



MARK RABAGO

Siberia Restaurant executive chef Boris Shugal is revamping the Russian restaurant's menu by introducing fusion cuisine.

plans to go back one of these days to playing pickup basketball. He also dabbles a bit in ping-pong and badminton.

Siberia Restaurant operations manager Kayoko "Kay" Irinaka said the establishment is also available for private parties and private chef bookings. She said prospective clients only need to call in advance to reserve the date and the services.

Emerald City LLC opened Siberia Restaurant in the middle of the year. It is located on the second floor of the ABC Building across DFS Galleria, along Beach Road.

Siberia Restaurant comfortably seats up to 50 guests and is open from 10am to 11pm daily. For reservations and for more information, call 233-7733. (Mark Rabago)



Northern Marianas Humanities Council

Navigating the Human Experience

Submission Deadlines for 2014 Community Grant Applications

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council wishes to advise the public regarding the submission deadlines for Community Grant applications for the 2014 grant cycle.

The submission dates for all types of Community Grants (regular grants, mini-grants and planning grants) are:

December 27, 2013

March 28, 2014

June 27, 2014

September 26, 2014

The Council will announce grant decisions within 30-45 days of the grant deadline. The start of project activities should be planned accordingly.

Grant guidelines and forms may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, or downloaded from the Council's website:

www.northernmarianashumanities.org

For more information about the Council's Community Grants Program, please contact staff at 235-4785.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 13-055

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Trades Foreperson

(Electrical)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Serves as a foreperson, leading a team of workers - assigning and monitoring work and providing technical direction. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$21,104 to \$30,601 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS : One (1).

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Four years of journey-level experience at the level of a Trades Technician (Electrician), or comparable experience related to the Power Generation area assigned—electrical, and including one year of experience leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an electrician. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-056

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Trades Technician

(Operator)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS : Six (6).

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible and proven experience in the trade—in this case operator. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-057

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Trades Technician

(Mechanic)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS : Ten (10)

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case mechanic. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-058

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Trades Technician

(Electrician)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)

SALARY : \$17,282 to \$25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

POSITIONS : Three (3).

CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade—in this case electrical. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

JVA No. 13-059

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Stipulated Order II Project Coordinator

DUTIES - The Project Coordinator (PC) is under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manger (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or their designee. Position will be primarily responsible for oversight of assigned projects and compliance activities. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY : Based on credentials and specialized experience \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 per annum.

POSITIONS : One (1).

CONTRACT : Two-year

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: A bachelor's degree or its equivalent in engineering or natural science. (An equivalent is an associate's degree in engineering or natural science and two years of direct oil experience; these two years are in addition to that detailed below.) Plus the following:

- 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience with in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.
- 5 years of experience in preparing bid or request for quotations and proposals.
- 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

Desirable:

- Prior experience of staff training and development.
- Certification in API tank inspection.

JVA No. 13-060

Opening Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manager

DUTIES – The Assistant Petroleum and Compliance Manger (“AM”) shall work under the supervision of the Petroleum and Compliance Manger (also known as the Technical Manager for Oil) or his/her designee. Position shall be primarily responsible for oversight of projects and compliance activities including, but not limited to, oil management. Please contact the Human Resource Office for more information.

LOCATION : Petroleum and Compliance Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY : Based on credentials and specialized experience \$55,000.00 to \$74,989.00 per annum.

POSITIONS : One (1).

CONTRACT : Two-year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- A bachelor's degree in engineering or natural science.
- 10 years in project administration and management, including overseeing work of contractors and company staff in an executive management position with proven management and communication skills.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment related to power plant operations, and extensive knowledge of DEQ and EPA regulations.
- 5 years of experience in preparing bid documents or request for quotations and proposals.
- 5 years of experience in contract negotiation and preparation.

Desirable:

- Prior experience of staff training and development.
- Master's degree in engineering and registration as professional engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, environmental or chemical engineering.
- Certification in API tank inspection.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Probable cause found to charge man in attack on elderly man

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against a 27-year-old man accused of hitting an elderly man with a PVC pipe and a drum can on the face and head.

At a preliminary hearing on Thursday, Govendo determined that the prosecution presented enough evidence that Matt Souneng may have committed the offenses of aggravated assault and battery, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, senior citizen physical abuse, obstructing justice, and resisting arrest.

The judge did not find probable to charge the defendant on five other offenses.

Govendo ordered Souneng to answer the charges. He is being kept on a \$10,000 cash bail.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister appeared for the government at the hearing. Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz served as counsel for Souneng.

According to police investigation, Souneng hit the victim in the face with a PVC pipe outside the latter's house in Kobleville on Nov. 24, 2013. The victim ran toward his garage, but the suspect threw the pipe, hitting him in the back.

The victim grabbed the pipe and chased Souneng, who ran across the road. The suspect picked up a drum can and hit the victim's head with it. The victim collapsed for a few minutes due to head injuries.

Souneng also allegedly pushed a responding police officer on the chest and resisted from being handcuffed. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

- I.

Preliminary

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda
- II.

Public Commentsⁱ
- III.

Reports

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report
- IV.

Unfinished Business
- V.

New Business

a. TDHC Casino Employee Applications

b. Multi-Jurisdictional Personal History Disclosure Form
- VI.

Executive Sessionⁱⁱ
- VII.

Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters
- VIII.

Adjournment

ⁱPublic comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
ⁱⁱPursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 9, 2005

Refugee regs create uproar

The Attorney General's Office is arranging for an unlimited number of Vietnamese human trafficking victims to stay in the Commonwealth for a possibly indefinite period, it was learned yesterday. Regulations being promulgated by the AGO would create a Safe Haven Entry Permit to be issued to human trafficking and forced prostitution victims, particularly ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia. The permit would be limited to children between 8 and 16 years old who are sponsored by a non-profit entity dedicated to rescuing victims of human trafficking and sexual slavery.

Wreckage of WWII fighter plane found on Pagan

Remnants of an aircraft believed to be an American fighter plane that was shot down over Pagan during World War II has been found on the island, according to businessman-historian Kenneth Moore. Moore, the chairman and chief executive officer of Azmar International company that had wanted to extract pozzolan deposits from Pagan, said yesterday that he has notified the Historic Preservation Office about the find. "We found another missing World War II airplane," Moore said. "We believe that it's the aircraft flown by Lt. Roy Bechtol, who was reportedly gunned down by his Japanese counterparts on June 23, 1944."

December 9, 2006

Multi-island travel package eyed for NMI

Talk of what sets the Northern Marianas apart from other destinations like Guam: To make it more attractive to tourists, why not offer Saipan as a destination alongside Tinian and Rota? "Offer tourists a multi-island package. Include Tinian and Rota in the Saipan travel package. This is something unique. Guam doesn't have it," said Kanae Quin, chair of the Japan market ad-hoc committee during Thursday's Marianas Visitors Authority general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan. She said the CNMI continues to suffer from a lack of destination recognition. She noted that most Japanese tourists know of Saipan but not much of Tinian and Rota, and have difficulty differentiating these islands from Guam.

DPH reopens Diabetes Center on Navy Hill

Two months after being shut down, the Department of Public Health's Diabetes Control and Prevention Program office has been reopened on Navy Hill. DPH deputy secretary for Lynn Tenorio confirmed that the Diabetes Center is back in business, just three months after its closure in July. DPH had shut down the center and moved its operations back to the Commonwealth Health Center due to cost-cutting measures. Earlier reports said the move was made to alleviate the department's financial problems. "But now we're back on Navy Hill because there has always been the need for information dissemination [on the disease]," Tenorio said.

December 9, 2007

Thousands join historic march

The Unity March on Friday achieved one of its primary objectives—be historic—by attracting thousands of people who joined representative-elect Tina Sablan and human rights advocate Wendy Doromal in the biggest protest march ever to happen on Saipan. "Tonight, we made history!" said Sablan, drawing loud applause and cheers from over 6,000 people who filled up the marchers' final destination—American Memorial Park's Amphitheater. Doromal told the demonstrators that social justice is not achieved merely through legislation, but through changing people's hearts, through speaking out and through education.

Toys for Tots program ends next week

The "Toys for Tots" program of will end next week, Thursday, after which a ceremony will be held at the Governor's Office conference room to turn over hundreds of toys and gifts collected from local businesses to benefit the children served under the Division of Youth Services. Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez's wife, Margaret Keene, said that she and first lady Josie Fitial discussed about two months ago their projects for this holiday season. "We came to a conclusion that since there is so much that can be done, we agreed to work separately so that we could cover more ground while working toward the same objective, but we shall come together in the end to celebrate the completion of each project," Keene said.

Micronesia Challenge committee elects new officers



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing from left, Willy Kostka of Micronesia Conservation Trust, Fran Castro (CNMI), Jennifer de Brum (RMI), Dr. Yim Golbuu (Palau), and Alissa Takesy (FSM). Seated are Evangeline Lujan (Guam) and Ricky Carl of The Nature Conservancy Micronesia. Not in picture: Bruce Kijiner (RMI) and Umiich Sengebau (Palau).

On the margins of the 19th Micronesia Chief Executive Summit held on Saipan on Dec. 3–6, 2013, the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee convened

their regular meeting on Dec. 3, 2013, to select new officers.

According to its bylaws: “The SC shall select from three of their members the chair, vice

chair, and a secretary. The term of officers shall be for one year and may be extended for additional years. Officers shall be selected and limited to the MC

Focal Points.”

The MCSC is made up of focal points from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Repub-

Deadline extended for nominations to Service Academies

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced Friday that she is extending the deadline for interested students to apply for a congressional nomination to the U.S. Service Academies. Students interested in attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado

Springs, Colorado; or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York should submit an application for congressional nomination to the delegate’s Guam District Office by Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

Candidates interested in applying for a Service Academy nomination are encouraged to contact the Guam District Of-

fice at (671) 477-4272, if they have any questions about the nomination process or need help in completing their application.

To download Bordallo’s Service Academy Nomination Application Form, or to learn more about the nomination process, please visit the delegate’s website at www.bordallo.house.gov. For more information on indi-

vidual service academies, visit the websites below:

- U.S. Air Force Academy – <http://www.usafa.af.mil>
- U.S. Military Academy – <http://www.usma.edu>
- U.S. Naval Academy – <http://www.usna.edu>
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy – <http://www.usma.edu>. (PR)

HARDT EYE CLINIC is in need of the following:

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Advanced Certified Optician (1) – Cut, grind, and polish eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lenses into frames or process other optical elements. Includes precision lens polishers or grinders, centerers-edgers, and lens mounters. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Certification and Advance Certification is required.**

Certified Optician (1) – Cut, grind, and polish eyeglasses, contact lenses, or other precision optical elements. Assemble and mount lenses into frames or process other optical elements. Includes precision lens polishers or grinders, centerers-edgers, and lens mounters. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications. **Certification is required.**

License Practical Nurse - (1) One

Nursing Assistant - (2) Two

Accountant – (2) Two

Submit application at Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc. dba Hardt Eye Clinic; Diabetes Education Center located next to MegaByte, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road, Saipan. Salary commensurate to credentials and qualification.



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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, December 13, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building, at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (Oct. 25, 2013)
- II. CORRESPONDENCES
- III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. Financial Affairs Committee
 2. Airport Facilities Committee
 3. Seaport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Bridge Investment Group, LLC.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Supplemental Budget Requests for Airport and Seaport
 2. Job Vacancy Announcement
 3. Tinian Marine Stevedore Inc.
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report
- X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

December 6, 2013

lic of Palau, and the U.S. territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

During their meeting, Bruce Kijiner, director of the Office of Environment Planning and Policy Coordination of RMI was elected chairman; Umiich Sengebau, minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism of Palau, was elected vice chairman; and Fran Castro, program manager for Watersheds and Coral Reefs of the Division of Environment Quality of the CNMI was elected secretary.

Accepting the chairmanship on behalf of the RMI was Jennifer de Brum, sitting in as a proxy for Kijiner. “The RMI’s chairmanship for the Micronesia Challenge comes at an opportune time, as the RMI also chairs the Pacific Islands

Forum in which the Majuro Declaration was launched. We are very excited about the task ahead, it is a very welcomed challenge,” de Brum stated in her acceptance speech to jurisdiction members.

The other focal points include Evangeline Lujan, administrator for Coral Reef Protection at the Bureau of Statistics and Plans for Guam; and Alissa Takesy, assistant secretary, Department of Resource and Development, FSM National Government.

The MCSC also has two non-voting members representing partner organizations: Willy Kostka, executive director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust; and Trina Leberer, director of The Nature Conservancy’s Micronesia Program. (MCSC)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mandela's legacy is one of love, forgiveness and reconciliation



Poverty would not entrap him, the vile system of apartheid could not destroy him and the bars of a jail cell were never able to imprison his awesome spirit and amazing mind.

And although he has succumbed to death, not even the grave can entomb that extraordinary passion he had for his fellow citizens of South Africa and, indeed, all of humanity.

Nelson Mandela, throughout his long, productive and inspiring life, refused to yield to hatred and racism, even though those evil forces were constantly unleashed against him. Despite his travails, he had a burning love for a country whose oppressive government showed no love or respect toward him — and millions of others who looked like him — for most of his life.

The freedom fighter, a symbol of humankind's resistance to tyranny and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, died Thursday at his home outside Johannesburg at the age of 95, surrounded by loved ones, while millions across his native land prayed not so much for a recovery but a "peaceful transition."

South African President Jacob Zuma said on hearing the news of Mandela's death, "Our nation has lost its greatest son. Our people have lost their father."

And the world has lost a gentle warrior who was a mighty force for justice.

People around the globe are in mourning for this giant of a public figure, who on his extraordinary journey taught us patience and persistence, love and understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation.

After spending 27 years in prison, including 18 years on the desolate Robben Island, Mandela remarkably emerged without bitterness and with a determination that he would work to see a democratic, united South Africa that would not devolve into civil war.

He joined with President F.W. de Klerk, the man who released him from prison and was his co-laureate for the Nobel Prize, in dismantling apartheid.

A year after becoming the country's first black president, a feat Mandela could not have imagined when he became the first member of his family to enroll in school, the government established South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

That panel was not set up to prosecute individuals and mete

See **MANDELA** on Next Page



Madiba on 'Net Blankes' White Only

Our title was once a common sign in South Africa where legal segregation called apartheid was in force. In the summer of '67, after watching *Fiddler on the Roof* in downtown Chicago, I walked my Pea Eye cousin's former exchange student host sister to the train station for her suburban home when a Caucasian grabbed my arm and in a slurred wino voice, thundered: "What are you doing with a white girl, boy?" Not as harsh as being chased by German shepherds in the deep South, segregation no longer official U.S. policy then, but the practice, as is still in in many quarters, of racial discrimination was deeply embedded and evident in the American psyche.

Nelson Mandela's life was a gracious and compassionate response to this reality, still a plague in South Africa, but no longer the official stance of its government. At 95, Mandela died this week. U.S. President Obama, himself a product of humanity's turning tide, eulogized: "He no longer belongs to us, he belongs to the ages..." It is never polite to comment on a President's solemn declaration, especially one we support, but Mandela becoming a part of us has a long way to go.

One of my Chinese students took a two-week trip this term to the United States with her family. As a condition to my permission for excused absences from class, she had to make a five-minute report in English of her trip when she returned.

Items in her report included a day in Waikiki when she and her mother went to the beach, each holding an umbrella. They were shielding themselves from the sun. The rest of the crowd at the beach were eagerly tanning themselves to get brown under the sun! Her notion of beauty was just being lily white. No tint of yellow, please.

African students at the International Education College of Shenyang Aerospace University often relate how they are treated with their dark skins. "The girls will date us, and even marry us, as long as we take them away from China. Any of our children are not Chinese even if their mother's genes are more dominant. Chinese men do not date African girls at all."

Farmers and countryside folks worldwide protect themselves from the sun in the field, and though there is harshness in the wind, shields are primarily to avoid getting sun-tanned. China, Korea, and Japan (and also the mestizo/a in Southeast Asia), often rate one's social status by the fairness of one's skin!

The skin whitening lotion has become more than a fad in India. It is big business. Movie stars and well-known personalities promote the product. Not that it should come as a surprise. On our journey to Delhi-Mumbai-Pune-Aurangabad (the last three are cities in the State of Maharashtra) in the '70s, I was unprepared to witness the distinction between north and south India as primarily racial. The northern Indo-Aryan was a socially favored status-wise over the darker Dravidian. The same held true in a teaching trek to Jamaica,

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a resident of Saipan teaching at the Shenyang Aerospace University in China. His email is pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela in the '80s.

When I worked at the Southwest Bankcard Association in the '60s in Texas, I was stunned to hear a mixed Caucasian-Afro-American girl refer to her colleague as a "black nigger" in a rather pejorative manner. We were surprised earlier at the social pecking order in a Chicago camera factory summertime job when my fair Puerto Rican brunette co-worker referred to her fellow workers from Tejas-Mejico as "niggers."

For the record, the top 20 global beauty companies totaled a whopping \$104 billion in sales in 2005. All directly or indirectly promote fair skin products registering increased sales in China, Korea, and Japan. The list includes: *Procter & Gamble*, Cincinnati; *L'Oréal*, France; *Unilever*, UK/Netherlands; *Estée Lauder*, NYC; *Avon*, NYC; *Shiseido*, Japan; *Beiersdorf*, Germany; *Johnson & Johnson*, NJ; *Alberto-Culver*, IL; *Henkel*, Germany; *Coty*, NYC; *Limited Brands*, Columbus; *LVMH (Dior, Givenchy, Guerlain, et al)*, France; *Colgate-Palmolive*, NYC; *Kao*, Japan; *Mary Kay*, TX; *Yves Rocher*, France; *Kosé*, Japan; *Access Business Group (Satanique)*, MI; and *Revlon*, NYC.

Ads in China promote blonde and blue-eyed models in lily-white environments. With such formidable global force delicately trained in the glitzy art of Avenue des Champs Elysees, Park Avenue, Ginza, and Soho, in the assault on the planetary mind, people of color stand a slim chance of affirming the givenness of their skin color and tone.

The sign 'Net Blankes' White Only is not only a historical one of South Africa. It is in internal and external neon light across many of humanity's current psychological frames and societal practices, touting the virtues of Slavic-Teutonic skin fairness.

Nelson Mandela's demonstrated message was simple. Yes, we need to watch the official policies, and, yes, pay attention to the quality of our commercial consumption, but it finally redound to one's relationship and ownership to one's own skin. In my class, I wear beautiful brown.

As SA President Jacob Suma said in his address in declaring the nation's flag to be at half-mast: "What made Nelson Mandela great was precisely what made him human, we saw in him what we seek in ourselves." Thanks, Mandiba, for making your presence known!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lawlessness in Washington

As a continuing student of government, I've read extensively on first principles including the federalist papers to understand what's "constitutionalism." It's simply following the intent of the founding fathers. Though I have an understanding of this issue from an historical perspective, I've also read books by renowned authors to inch closer to clarity.

Nowhere in political literature did I find that the president could willfully violate any and all provisions of the Constitution. Yet, President Obama seems to be having a field day violating the proper limits of executive power that has become breathtaking.

Said Charles Krauthammer, author and national columnist: "We've now reached a point where a flailing president, desperate to deflect the opprobrium—disgrace from shameful conduct—heaped upon him for the false promise that you could keep your health plan if you wanted to, calls a hasty news conference urging both insurers and the states to reinstate millions of such plans.

"Except that he is asking them to break the law. His own law. Under Obamacare, no insurer may issue a policy after 2013 that does not meet the law's minimum coverage requirements. These plans were canceled because they do not.

"The law remains unchanged. The regulations governing that law remain unchanged. Nothing is changed except for a president proposing to unilaterally change his own law from the White House pressroom. "That's banana republic stuff, except that there the dictator proclaims from the presidential balcony."

WSJ columnist Peggy Noonan had this to say about Obama: "The president's problem right now is that people think he's smart. They think he's in command, aware of pitfalls and complexities. That's his reputation: He's risen far on his brains. They think he is sophisticated. That is his problem in the health insurance debacle.

"It's a shock for most people that it's a shambles. A fellow very friendly to the administration, a longtime supporter, cornered me at a holiday party recently to ask, with *true perplexity*: "The questioner had been the manager of a great institution, a high stakes 24/7 operations with a lot of moving parts. He knew Murphy's Law—if it can go wrong, it will. Managers—presidents—have to obsess, have to put the fear of God, as Mr. Obama says, into those below them in the line of authority. They don't have to get down in the weeds every day but they have to know there are weeds, and that things get caught in them.

"And this president wasn't. I think part of the reason he wasn't careful is because he sort of lives in words. That's been his whole professional life—books, speeches. Say something and it magically exists as something said, and if it's been said and publicized it must be real. He never had to push a lever, see the machine not respond, puzzle it out and fix it. It's all been pretty abstract for him, not concrete. He never had to stock a store, run a sale and see lots of people come but the expenses turn out to be larger than you'd expected and the profits smaller, and you have to figure out what went wrong and do better next time.

"People say Mr. Obama never had to run anything, but it may be more important that he never worked for the guy who had to run something, and things got fouled up along the way and he had to turn it around. He never had to meet a payroll, never knew that stress.

"He probably never had to buy insurance! And you know his policies were probably gold-plated—at the law firm, through his wife's considerable hospital job, in the Illinois Legislature, in the U.S. Sen-

MANDELA

From Page 10

out punishment, but to discover the truth and begin the process of healing the nation.

After leaving office, Mandela still spent much of his time raising money and awareness for people and causes all over the world, including joining the fight against HIV/AIDS, a disease that claimed the life of his son.

He also worked to ensure other countries embraced South Africa as a member of the family of nations.

This true citizen of the world has left us an incredible legacy, one that should be emulated.

In 2009, on his 90th birthday, the United Nations declared July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day and asked that each year people devote just 67 minutes to helping others.

That's compared to the 67 years Mandela had spent fighting for human rights.

It would seem that that kind of observance would be the least we could do to honor the memory of this great man.

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ate. Those guys know how to take care of themselves! Maybe he felt guilty. Maybe that's to his credit, knowing he was lucky. Too bad he didn't know what he didn't know, like how every part has to work for a complicated machine to work."

It seems everything that Mr. O spouts is but farcical! He can't place a finger on who to blame lest he indicts himself.

Discussion on immigration

Our country enjoys exceptional status as a "nation of immigrants," though derailed by the demands of globalization making both migration and terrorism much easier.

The biggest challenge facing Congress is "distinguishing illusory immigration problems from real problems," according to Drs. Tim Kane and Kirk A. Johnson of the Heritage Foundation. But the policy of benign neglect in recent years can no longer be treated with mediocrity. Both chambers would have to deal with the dire need to craft a comprehensive law over the next year.

Some 11 million illegal immigrants are in the country today. The number is a powerful testament to the attractiveness of our country for jobs and freedom. We can't simply dismiss the positive contributions of immigrants for they boost the national output, enhance specialization, and provide a net of economic benefit. But fiscal hawks argue immigrants get more from entitlement programs than what they pay in taxes. Moreover, some 47 million Americans are

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Consultation, consultation, consultation

I keep reading about the lack of consultation with the CNMI people by federal authorities and our delegate, Mr. Sablan, from the time he introduced a bill and the recommendation of the Department of the Interior to Congress to improve the status of foreign workers in the CNMI.

Now again, Delegate Sablan failed to call for public hearings and townhall meetings on the islands on his plan to support additional measures for pathway to U.S. citizenship for foreign workers such as S.744 and HR 15 to get input from the CNMI people. He named only four people who provided recommendations for and against improved status for foreign workers.

You see, Delegate Sablan conducted many, many townhall meetings in the past and has sharpened his speechmaking skills on other issues of lesser importance than the fate of the CNMI people and in particular the indigenous population. But he skillfully chooses to avoid meeting with his constituency on the issue of "pathway to US citizenship for foreign workers" because he knows and still cannot figure out how to respond to questions and concerns that are surfac-

Social impacts in the Kagman community

Dear Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero: It is quite alarming to read the papers about a *daok* seedling stolen from the Kagman Community Center that was planted by the Saipan Rotary Club. It is further disturbing that the area is a government facility that has no means of public and property protection and the lack of efforts to deter blatant offensive acts committed by our own people. Furthermore, just after disposing of illegal trash dumping at the Forbidden Road, we learned that our very own citizens literally disregarded our efforts and continue to illegally dump their trash at the very same place.

Just last night as I was driving from Kagman around 10pm, I saw school children roaming the streets as if there is no school tomorrow. Driving down Kagman Road, a pickup truck (teenagers drive trucks) flashed by me as if it is a drag strip. A few days ago in the early morning hours, I listened to a screeching vehicle and burning rubbers as if Isa Drive is Indy 500. It is very obvious that we need public protection in these areas to ensure the safety, security, and livability of the community.

These being said, I respectfully urge you to revisit our previous dialogue to implement public safety and Neighborhood Watch programs in the Kagman community. I stand ready to continue our dialogue to implement programs badly needed and vital to improve the sanctity and spirit of our people.

Thank you Mr. Commissioner and "happy holidays."

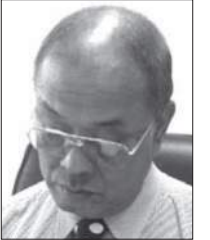
Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero

18th Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



in the same boat.

"The increase in the immigration flow has corresponded with steady and substantial reductions in unemployment from 7.3 percent to 5.1 percent over the past two decades," a study noted. "And the unemployment rates have fallen by 6 percentage points for blacks and 3.5 percentage points for Latinos. But all must enter the country legally and participate in an ID and guest worker program."

Our dissenting views on immigration may be viewed as racist but like a judge who hailed from Romania strongly espousing the essence of our country, both fall under the umbrella of the "American experience." Time heals all wounds and when the dust settles, we'd all be relishing specific experiences that brought us together in unity as Americans.

ing now in newspapers, TV, and occasions like weddings, wakes, family gatherings. People are concerned and many feel betrayed. I feel betrayed. In one forum, when confronted why he introduced a bill to improve the status of foreign workers, he tried to walk out of his own townhall meeting, not wanting to face the music and answer compelling questions, then he realized that he cannot walk out of his own townhall meeting without embarrassing himself.

When a public official is put into public office it is always advisable to consult with the people that put you in that office on each and every issue that affect their lives because they have ways to get rid of you. Not re-electing you is just one of several options to bring you down from your pedestal.

The other thing that Delegate Sablan got himself in this dilemma is that he and Gov. Inos really think that the indigenous people are *insignificant* and poses no danger to their political ambitions. Wrong! Gubernatorial candidate Heinz Hofschneider is smart enough not to get embroiled in this boiling issue of improved status for foreign workers. The silent majority might just give him the benefit of the doubt come election time. What I find interesting also is the fact that while Gov. Inos has expressed his support of Delegate Sablan's re-election, the delegate has not uttered a word of support for IT. Interesting to wait and see who betrays who at the end of the day.

Lolita M. Rangamar
Afetnas, Saipan

Alternative to improved status






It is very interesting to read the debates over the immigration bill that Mr. Kilili is supporting that will eventually make all foreign workers in the CNMI become U.S. citizens. I have a solution but it not easy because some leaders will have to bite their feet and swallow back spitted saliva. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Gov. Inos, Mr. Kilili, and the 12,000 foreign laborers all say that we need 12,000 foreign workers to help the economy. I think they are right and this can be done without the 12,000 workers becoming U.S. citizens or permanent residents. My solution is for our government to ask the U.S. Department of Labor to extend the CW's to get work visas or whatever permit is needed to have them live and work in the CNMI for the next four or five years until the CNMI workforce can be developed to the point of replacing the foreign laborers on a gradual basis. No improved status whatsoever. Because to do otherwise will forever transfer 12,000 and more jobs in the future to foreign laborers and 12,000 jobs lost to the CNMI people and other U.S. citizens. If the government takes this approach no one gets offended but everybody wins.

Isidro S. Luzama
San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

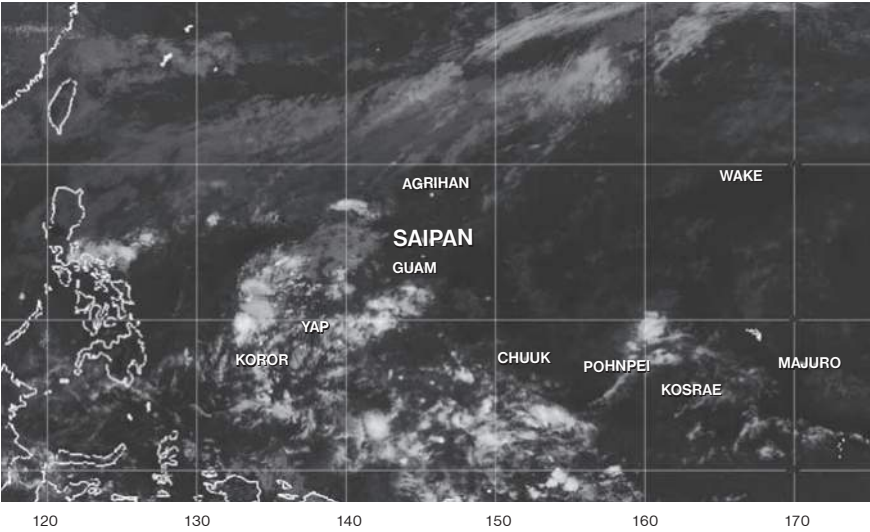
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼60
Beijing	Sunny	▲46 ▼24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲56 ▼37
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲72 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼70
New York	Cloudy	▲36 ▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲57 ▼48
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲46 ▼34
Pusan	Showers	▲59 ▼34
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲58 ▼43
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲34 ▼20
San Francisco	Sunny	▲45 ▼34
Seoul	Showers	▲42 ▼27
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲54 ▼45
Washington, DC	Snow	▲32 ▼31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
7:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near equatorial trough extends from 1N130E through a circulation south of Palau near 3N136E to 1N148E to end at EQ155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found south of Palau between 3N and 7N from 132E to 146E and south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 146E to 155E. Low-level convergence north of the circulation is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Palau between 8N and 14N from 133E to 137E and east of Yap and south of Guam between 8N and 12N from 139E to 145E. A surface trough stretches from 4N162E to 10N160E and is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Pohnpei between 7N and 11N from 159E to 163E. A shear line enters the discussion area near Minami Tori Shima at 25N155E and extends south-westward to 17N140E to beyond 130E at 15N. Scattered showers are occurring northwest of the Marianas along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A cold front stretches from 24N180 to 21N170E to 21N160E. Low clouds and scattered showers could be found northeast of Wake Island along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:50 AM	
Tuesday	12:33 PM	12:07 AM
Wednesday	1:16 PM	1:01 AM
Thursday	1:59 PM	1:54 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	2:46 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR) DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Paseo de Marianas 'starts to look a lot like Christmas'

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of residents and visitors converged at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan at exactly 6pm Saturday for the countdown to lighting a 30-foot Christmas tree to signal the start of the Christmas season on the islands.

Fourteen schools were well represented, with students and teachers standing by their decorated Christmas trees for the traditional 8th Christmas Tree Decorating contest.

The main tree itself stood at the center of the Paseo de Marianas and was illuminated by bright colorful lights and decorated with recyclable materials like aluminum cans and plastic.

"It is starting to look a lot like Christmas," said one Saipan resident.

The Saipan Awa-Odori Team, who opened the night's performances, joined PDM Promoters Inc. representatives and Marianas Visitors Authority personnel for the countdown that lit up the entire Paseo de Marianas.

Schools participating in the 8th Christmas Tree Decorating contest include San Antonio, Kagman, Tanapag, William S. Reyes, Oleai, Dandan, Gregorio T. Camacho, San Vicente, and Koblerville elementary schools; Green Meadow School, Golden Harvest International School, Grace Christian Academy, Mt. Carmel School, and Agape Christian School.

The annual competition aims to promote the importance of recycling by limiting students to using solely recyclable materials to decorate each of their 9-foot tall Christmas trees. Each entry will be judged based on creativity and originality.

From paper plates to bottle caps, all of the "green" decorated trees complimented PDM's 30-foot tree as people enjoyed food sold by vendors and restaurants, performances by students, and games.

Saipan resident Herme Ablog shared that he and his daughter have been coming to the Paseo de Marianas since the countdown ceremony began.

"I come here every year to watch the nice performances and see who wins the Christmas tree decorating contest this year," he said.

The three-hour event also



PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Hundreds of tourists and locals gather at the center of the Paseo de Marianas, Garapan to enjoy performances from the Saipan Awa-Odori team and public school students.

featured displays of illustrations from elementary students from Rota and Tinian of "what Christmas means to me."

The food, games, and performances made it an enjoyable night for everyone who attended but one of the most popular attractions was RNV's 30-foot Christmas tree as ribbons and markers were made available for people to write down their wishes and tie them to the titanic tree.

"I wished for the families in the Philippines to be back to normal again," one 7-year-old told the *Saipan Tribune*.

The 2013 Christmas in the Marianas celebration will also host a caroling competition this Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas and a Parade of Floats a week later, Dec. 21.

"We saw a lot more involvement with the schools, especially in the Christmas tree decorating contest," Community Project team member Ryan Calvo. "We have more locals and tourist coming here and this is becoming a popular event. Every year people are looking forward to this and the variety of activities that we hold."



A girl poses for a photo in front of RNV's 30-foot Christmas Tree.



Vendors from Furusato serve members of the community food.



Golden Harvest students, parents, and teachers pose for a photo in front of their school Christmas tree.



A Kinpachi staff prepares food for the night's events.



Koblerville Elementary students pose in front of their Christmas tree.



Green Meadow representatives pose for a photo in front of their Christmas tree.



A girl ties her "make a wish" ribbon onto the 30-foot Christmas tree at Saturday night's event.

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19th Micronesia Chief Executives Summit



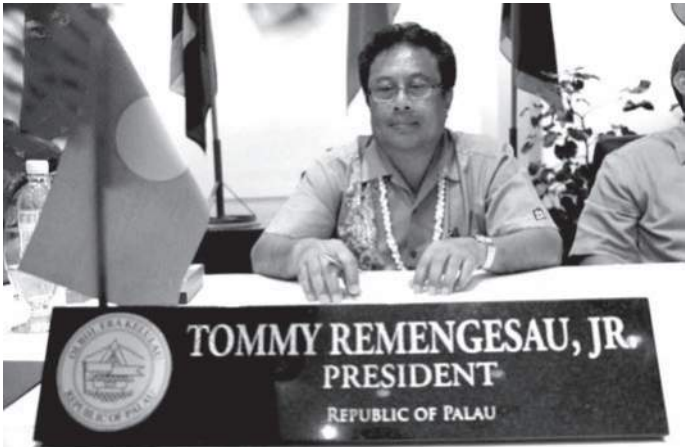
Presidents and governors or their representatives, seated, sign communiqués at the end of a three-day 19th Micronesia Chief Executives Summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Friday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak waits for his turn to sign a communiqué.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. looks on at the conclusion of the summit.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Yap Gov. Sebastian L. Anefal signs a communiqué.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other Micronesia governors and presidents look on as individuals from American Samoa offer their sincere thanks to Micronesia leaders for hosting their Samoan ancestors to their islands decades back during the war.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., left, signs a communiqué, while Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, right, looks on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

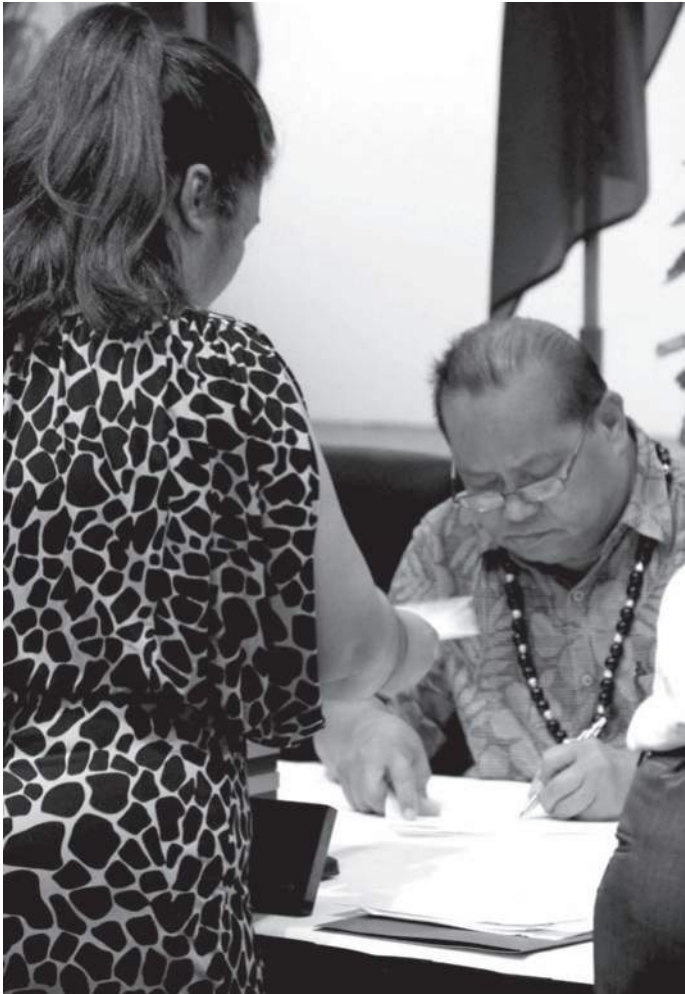
Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori reviews document.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Glass replicas of the CNMI's commemorative quarter coin along with a CNMI history book authored by Don Farrell are on display, moments before Gov. Eloy S. Inos and staff presented them as gifts to Micronesia leaders.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, chairman of the 19th Micronesia Chief Executives Summit, signs a communiqué.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Dr. Failautusi "Tusi" Avegalio, right, leads an elaborate American Samoan traditional ceremony to offer thanks to Micronesian leaders at the conclusion of the three-day Micronesia Chief Executives Summit at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan on Friday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, presents CNMI gifts to Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori looks on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Micronesian presidents and governors, seated, sign communiqués.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr., left, and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo confer.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



An American Samoan, left-foreground, offers an elaborate traditional ceremony to thank Micronesian leaders.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, shares some things about the CNMI's gifts to Micronesian leaders while members of his staff look on.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, receives a special present from the Marshall Islands delegation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Man found guilty of federal firearm charges

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced Friday that Jesus Sablan Palacios was found guilty on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2013, of three counts of felon

in possession of firearm and/or ammunition, and three counts of unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of firearm and/or ammunition.

Palacios will be sentenced on March 14, 2014, in the U.S.

District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Palacios faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years imprisonment and a maximum sentence of life, under the armed career criminal sentencing en-

hancement.

The indictment filed on Aug. 22, 2013, charged that Palacios, after having been convicted of a crime, knowingly possessed six .22 caliber bullets, 10 Winchester 38SPL .38 caliber bul-

lets, eight .9 mm caliber bullets and one Ruger, model 10/22, .22 caliber rifle, one .22 caliber rifle with its barrel and stock sawed off, and three .22 caliber bullets—all items that had been shipped and transported in inter-

state and foreign commerce.

Palacios was also charged with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance while knowingly possessing these items.

Limtiaco stated, "The possession of firearms and drugs is a potentially deadly combination. Innocent civilians and law enforcement are unnecessarily placed at great risk of harm by the exposure to firearms in the wrong hands. Those who use firearms to protect their illegal activities must know that they will face hard time."

Limtiaco also stated: "Methamphetamine has been linked to an increase in violent crimes and results in devastating effects to individuals and to the community. Those who engage in the use of this illegal drug and found to be in possession of firearms will be prosecuted and face severe penalties."

This case was investigated by special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and officers from the CNMI Department of Public Safety. Assistant U.S. attorneys Rami Badawy and Ross Naughton prosecuted the case. (USAO)

Multinational search for missing crewmember

POHNPEI, FSM—Multiple agencies from the Federated States of Micronesia, Japan, and the U.S. coordinated efforts, over the course of five days, to search for a crewmember that was reported missing from the Japanese

fishing vessel *Chokyu Maru* 35. A total of 2,234 square nautical miles were covered during the search.

On Dec. 3, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a report of a missing crewmember from the *Chokyu*

Maru 35 who was believed to have fallen overboard 407 nautical miles south of Pohnpei, FSM. The report was relayed from the Japanese Coast Guard through the U.S. Coast Guard's 14th District.

Sector Guam coordinated

search efforts from two commercial vessels, fishing vessel *Chokyu Maru* 2 and fishing vessel *Fuku Ichi Maru* 83, FSM patrol boat *FSS Palikir*, a U.S. Marine Corps C-130 aircraft operating in Guam, and a U.S. Coast Guard C-130 aircraft out

of Barbers Point, HI.

Ten surface and six air searches were conducted during the multinational response. U.S. Coast Guard suspended searching on the afternoon of Dec. 7, after extensive searching did not result in locating the missing crewmember. (USCG)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 9, from 9am-10:30am
- Dec. 10, from noon to 3pm
- Dec. 11, from 8:30am to 5pm
- Dec. 12, from 1:30pm-4:30pm

The military will also conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the fol-

lowing dates and times:

- Dec. 8, from 8am to 5pm
- Dec. 9, from 7am to 8pm
- Dec. 10, from 7am to 11:59pm
- Dec. 11 and 12, from 12:01am to 11:59pm
- Dec. 13, from 12:01am-10am

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear

from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 South of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam

and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E.

The general location of the training on the island of Faral-

lon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)



Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider with Grace Christian Academy's Mrs. States and her 4th Grade class.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hofschneider visits elementary schools

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider recently visited with Grace Christian Academy, Saipan, after being invited by students Karissa Quichocho and Clerisse Dacumos of Mrs. States' fourth grade class. During the visit, the students discussed a variety of topics with Hofschneider, including the role of government in society and favorite hobbies.

Earlier this year, Hofschneider was also invited to meet and congratulate the recently inducted members of Tinian Elementary School's Student Government Organization. (PR)



Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider with Tinian Elementary School's Student Government Organization and principal Connie Lou Manglona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 7th birthday to Prescella Sherol-Rose K. Sablan! May God bless you and wishing you many more birthdays to come. Love you always, from Faith, Rojo, Gunner, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Roland Victor Saimon Tagabue! Aloha and God bless you always. We love and miss you. Greetings come from Jojo and Shaun.



Happy birthday to Ruby Jean Camacho! Enjoy your day with many blessings and may you have many more birthdays to come.

Judge denies Woodruff's motion to suspend 3-day jail term

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied on Friday Stephen C. Woodruff's request to suspend his three-day prison sentence for contempt of court pending his appeal before the CNMI Supreme Court.

With Wiseman's order, Woodruff was expected to be released from the Department of Corrections yesterday morning.

APIL backs alternative Guam-NMI transport system

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, in its recent board of directors meeting, unanimously adopted Resolution 54-BOD-07, that promotes an affordable alternative regional transportation between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by means of a commuter and cargo vessel service.

Delegates from the various Island Legislatures shared their experience with interisland shipping in their home islands including costs and challenges.

Sen. Tina Muña Barnes said, "I am encouraged by the regional support through APIL. Looking to our neighbors and learning from their experiences will help us avoid some of the obstacles to promoting affordable alternatives for transportation for passengers and cargo between Guam and the CNMI." (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS calendar of events

■ Dec. 12, 2013, Thursday: Progress report from 4pm to 6pm at MHS Gym.

■ Dec. 19, Thursday: PTA meeting from 6pm at MHS Dolphin Theatre.

■ Dec. 23 to Jan. 03, 2014: Christmas break, no classes. (PR)

Free business workshop on Rota

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, presents the free workshop "Start an Added Value Product" on Rota on Dec. 12, 2013, from 10am to 12pm, that Rota's Northern Marianas College campus. Please call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Free business seminar on Tinian

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business training seminar on Tinian on Dec. 20, Friday, from 10am to 12pm at the Tinian campus of the Northern Marianas College (Room-D). Please call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. Light food and refreshments provided! (PR)

ing. He voluntarily reported to DOC on Thursday morning pursuant to a court order.

In denying Woodruff's motion for a stay of his sentence, the judge said the disbarred lawyer "does not assert the standard governing motions for stay and thus his motion fails to substantially show a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of irreparable injury or that serious questions are raised and the balance of hardships tips sharply in his favor."

Wiseman said that Woodruff merely asserts that the Superior Court is wrong.

Wiseman said the court did not err in partially revoking Woodruff's suspended sentence and did not err in refusing to acknowledge respondent's an in-camera submission without the

proper procedural vehicle.

In-camera submission means filed in private.

The judge said the court also did not err in finding the results of the Nov. 21, 2013, hearing warranted partial revocation of the suspended sentence and appointment of an auditor.

Wiseman pointed out that Woodruff's other allegations of error have no basis.

On Woodruff's failure to pay \$200 to his former client, Mr. Nakamura, Wiseman gave the respondent one month or until Jan. 6, 2014, to pay the amount.

As to the issue of standards cited by Woodruff in his motion to stay, Wiseman said Commonwealth Rule of Civil Procedure 62(d) deals with supersedeas bonds, which are not at issue here, and Commonwealth Rule of Criminal

Procedure 38(a)(2) is a rule of criminal procedure that is inapplicable to this civil case.

In his motion to stay, Woodruff claimed that the court erred in partially revoking his suspended sentence because he did everything he could to purge the contempt as there is no evidence he did not inform his clients of his ability to practice law, and that the disbarment order is not final, and that he was not given a chance to purge the contempt before sentence was imposed.

Wiseman disagreed. He noted that Woodruff is correct in stating that there is no evidence that he did not inform his clients of the status of his ability to practice law, as this is exactly what the affidavit in Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Rules of Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and the disbarment

order required.

Second, the judge said, if the disbarment order was not a final order, then respondent would not have the ability to appeal it.

Third, Wiseman said, Woodruff was given several opportunities to comply before the sentence was imposed.

"The court ordered the suspended sentence on the condition that respondent comply, gave him a chance to file the required affidavit, and then gave him a chance to file a supplement to the affidavit to cure its defects," he said.

Woodruff, under the threat of imposition of the sentence for his contempt, failed to avail himself of these opportunities, according to Wiseman.

"These arguments go toward the factor of probable success on the merits and respondent

fails to establish any of the other factors required for a stay. A stay is therefore not warranted on this ground of error," the judge said.

Wiseman said that Woodruff alleges other miscellaneous areas of error but similarly fails to allege any other standard required to warrant a stay.

On Nakamura's fees, Wiseman said the court directed the respondent to pay \$200 to the client by Dec. 6, 2013, but Woodruff raised the arguments that he may be incarcerated at that time and also lacks the ability to make the payment.

Wiseman acknowledged the arguments and amended the payment date to Jan. 6, 2014.

Wiseman disbarred Woodruff on June 7, 2013, for 44 violations of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.



Rotary donates toys to Salvation Army

Rotary Club of Saipan members pose with the toys they donated to the Salvation Army last Saturday during the civic group's Christmas party at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The donated toys will be turned over to the Division of Youth Services.

The Rotary Club of Saipan held its annual Christmas party underneath the stars at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan on Saturday, during which the civic group turned over the initial batch of toys it collected from its members to the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army pastor Wayne Gillespie thanked Rotary for the early Christmas present and said all the toys will be given to children under the auspices of the Division of Youth Services.

He also appealed to the community to find it in their hearts to donate more toys to the Salvation Army.

"We're asking for unwrapped gifts for children of all age ranges from infants all the way to 18 years old. We would like to remind folks to remember the older kids. Sometimes in toy drives

we remember to buy toys for the young kids but we don't remember to buy toys for the older kids," Gillespie said.

Gillespie, who is the sergeant-at-arms of the local Rotary, also said that donors for their toy drive can drop off their donations at the Bank of Hawaii branches in Susupe and in Puerto Rico.

"What you just do is drop the unwrapped toys at the Bank of Hawaii and slide them under the Christmas trees—the Angel Trees—that are already set up in their lobbies."

He also reminded everyone that the Salvation Army is also accepting cash donations for its toy drive.

"The reason for that is it gives us more flexibility. Often at the end of the toy drive, it's inevitable that we will find ourselves short of gifts for certain gen-

ders and certain ages. So if folks donate cash we will have the cash to go out and buy toys to make up the shortfalls."

Last year, the Salvation Army was able to provide two to three toys each to more than 20 children.

Rotary president Laila Y. Boyer said she's really glad that Rotarians were able to donate anew in this year's toy drive of the Salvation Army.

"It's not finished, though, as we will be collecting until next week. We will probably wrap it up by the end of next week and hand it over to the Salvation Army," she said.

Boyer also thanked the close to 30 Rotary members and their guests that attended the group's Christmas party held at the newly opened Isla poolside bar.

Two Interact Club members also received Interact Club pins from Youth Services director Ivan Ilimov during the Christmas party.

Ilimov said he asked a friend from Russia who is also a former Interact Club member to send pins to Saipan, that's why he was able to give Interact Club president Doreen Duenas and secretary Magdiel Corpuz the pins Saturday night.

In a short speech, Duenas thanked Rotary for chartering an Interact Club at the Marianas High School. She said she joined the organization because she likes helping the community.

For his part, Corpuz said joining the Interact Club complements his membership in MHS' Youth Advisory Panel. (Mark Rabago)

Understanding risk to enhance community safety

A team from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Geoscience and Applied Technology Division visited French Polynesia on Oct. 14 to 17 to report on the results of a series of studies designed to reduce the risk of storm surge in the Tuamotu Islands, a strategic area for

pearl culture, tourism and environmental conservation.

This project was implemented over a two-year period and is now entering its final phase. Its objective was to define with more accuracy the impact of storm surge in coastal areas in order to enhance community safety.

Based on proven scientific techniques, four studies were conducted to determine the risk of flooding during an extreme tropical cyclone. Flood hazard was assessed using bathymetric, oceanographic and topographic data collected in strategic areas of the Tuamotu Islands. These

data were used to produce a bathymetric chart of Rangiroa, the largest atoll in French Polynesia, detailing the depth of the lagoon and channels. SPC experts also produced inundation maps by modelling storm surge in a number of key areas.

To complement the scientific studies, an economic analysis was carried out to propose cost-effective adaptation solutions to

the French Polynesia Government in order to enhance community safety.

This European Union-funded project has made it possible to put forward a series of recommendations for the French Polynesia Government to consider as part of its efforts to protect communities and infrastructure from the risk of natural disasters. (SPC)

Service members volunteer time at Tinian Elementary

By CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Marines and sailors volunteered their time from their daily routine to participate in a Dec. 4 community relations event at the Tinian Elementary School.

The service members on Tinian are participating in exercise Forager Fury II, and are clearing Tinian's North Field to land aircraft.

The purpose of exercise FF II is to employ and assess combat power generation and operations in a deployed, austere and unimproved environment.

"For our Marines, it definitely builds morale, getting out of the field, helping the public and seeing what Tinian is all about," said Navy Lt. Alexander J. Cho, Chaplain with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force from Wayne, NJ. "For the students, they get [extra] positive influences and role models who can show them what we do and how we live our lives."

The staff of Tinian Elementary School also appreciated the presence of the Marines and sailors who volunteered their time.

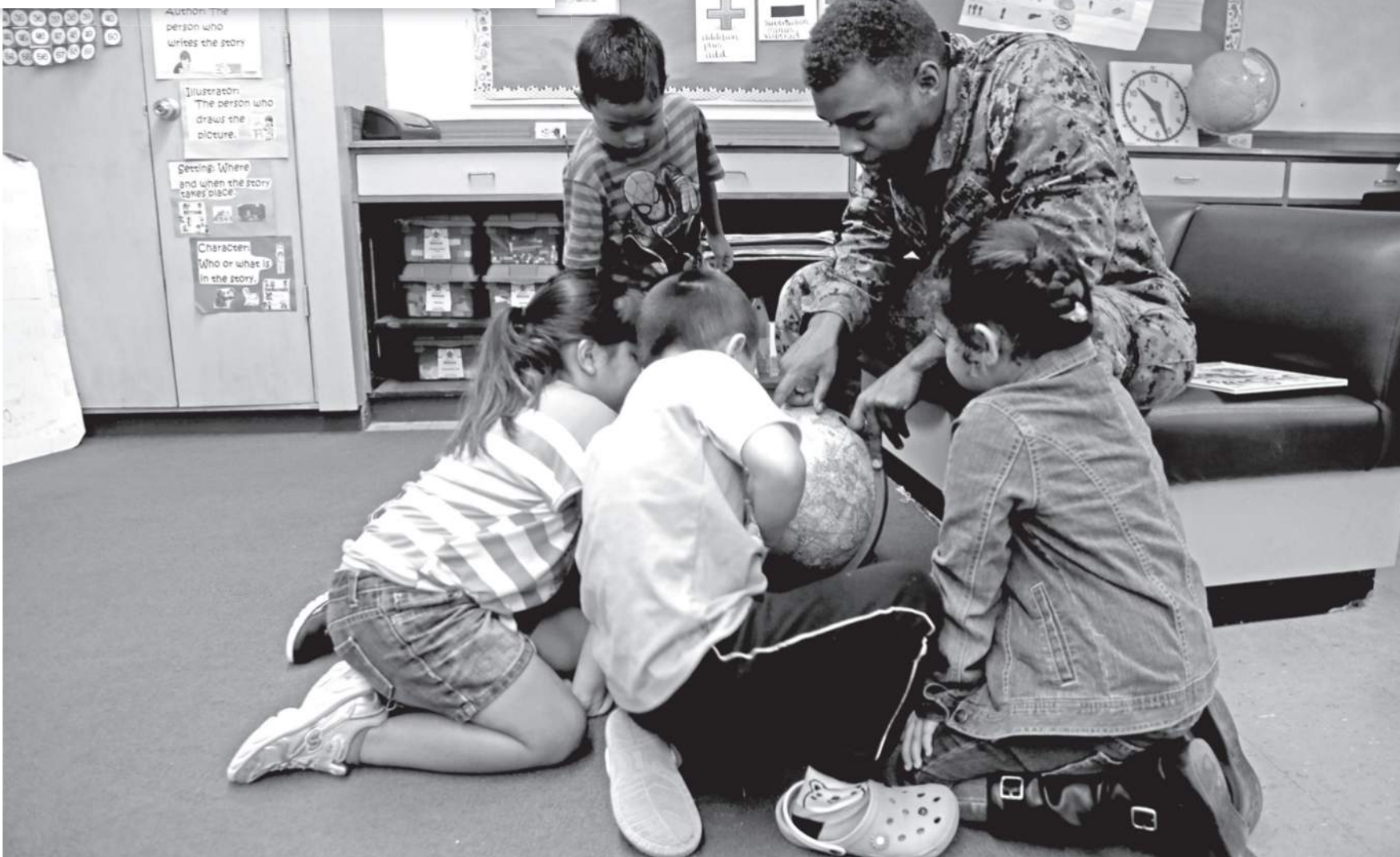
"It was really neat to see the Marines in the classrooms with the children, answering their questions and playing games with them," said Vanna Aldan, a student services provider. "For most of the children, this is their first time seeing Marines in real life."

The volunteer group consisted of Marines and sailors from chemical biological radiological



Lance Cpl. Michael Bridenstine helps a group of first graders with their writing skills at Tinian Elementary School during a community relations event Dec. 4. Bridenstine is here as part of Exercise Forager Fury II. Bridenstine is a chemical biological radiological nuclear defense specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK



CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK

Lance Cpl. Sterling L. Meriweather helps children at Tinian Elementary School find Tinian on a globe during a community relations event Dec. 4. Meriweather is a satellite communications specialist with Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

CBRN Marines suit up at Exercise Forager Fury II

By LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defense Marines conducted annual unit-level training on Dec. 3 at Tinian's North Field to exercise specific unit capabilities and cross train other Marines from sections participating in Forager Fury II.

The CBRN Marines executed contamination detection and contamination perimeter security and evacuation procedures.

Forager Fury II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.

The Marines are with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"We're conducting annual unit-level training to show Marines' proficiency and abil-

ity to conduct operational [decontamination] in a wartime environment so they are able to continue the mission," said Staff Sgt. Brian Smith, CBRN chief with MAG-12. "The importance of this training is to make sure Marines are up to standard and they're prepared at all times."

The decontamination portion of operational warfare is one of the biggest portions for MWSS-171 mission, according to Smith.

Training begins with warning and reporting procedures and sending out a reconnaissance surveillance team. The purpose of the team is to inform the command of any possible danger areas and then can decide troop movement.

"I'm leading the recon and survey portion which teaches Marines different types of contaminations while making sure everyone is using proper personal equipment," said Lance Cpl. Michael Bridenstine,

CBRN specialist with MAG-12. "We deal with a very wide range of contaminations and chemicals. We can deal with anything from radiation all the way to chemical level 5, even biological if we have to. It gets pretty messy sometimes."

Marines conduct training in an established training area in the exclusive military use area in accordance with all range regulations, in a safe, considerate and environmentally responsible manner.

This training provides Marines cross training in other military occupational specialties participating in FF II, according to Smith.

"I learned that there is a lot more that goes into dealing with gas and chemicals," said Cpl. Stephanie Klicker, aviation communication systems technician with Marine Air Support Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAF, III MEF. "Everything they taught me I didn't know



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

Staff Sgt. Brian Smith, center left, and Cpl. Matthew Ahn demonstrates a proper mission orientated protective posture gear exchange Dec. 3 at Tinian's North Field during exercise Forager Fury II. Smith is the CBRN chief and Ahn is the noncommissioned officer in charge of CBRN with MAG-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

before and they broke it down so I as well as other Marines, not in this MOS, could learn to the best of our abilities."

According to Smith, Marines

participated in unit-level training to increase operational readiness while maintaining safety and gaining experience.

"If there's a chance the enemy

would use biological, chemical, radiological or nuclear warfare we're prepared to handle it and push forward with the mission," said Smith.

Lawyer to CHCC: Withdraw termination notice

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawyer representing Dr. Grant Walker, the orthopedic surgeon who recently left the public hospital, has demanded the withdrawal of the decision by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s governing body to terminate Walker's medical privileges at the hospital due to a host of allegations that the lawyer said are without basis and misleading.

Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti wants CHCC interim CEO Esther Muña to rescind the decision and to apologize to the doctor for what he described as improper treatment of the physician.

Walker was hired on a one-month contract with the corporation to serve as its orthopedic surgeon, a position that has been vacant for more than a year.

Days before the expiration of his contract, the doctor was issued a notice terminating his medical privileges at the Commonwealth Health Center, which barred him from using the hospital's facility. Walker had initially expressed his intention to stay on island and join

the private sector to continue providing orthopedic services.

Based on the Nov. 23 termination notice issued to Walker, the governing body cited several reasons for his termination, including allegations of insubordination, inappropriate gestures to a minor patient, unprofessional conduct and disruptive behavior. The governing body stated that its action was based on reports and observed incidents it received.

Saipan Tribune learned that Walker's lawyer wrote Muña on Nov. 27 in response to the termination notice. Guidotti demands three things from CHCC: 1.) withdrawal of the Nov. 23 letter; 2.) a written apology to the doctor because of the "unnecessarily public manner" in which the letter was delivered; 3.) and grant the doctor his medical privileges at CHC in order to enable him to open a private practice in the Commonwealth.

The lawyer said he had an opportunity to investigate the allegations against the doctor and found them misleading and possibly false. Guidotti reportedly interviewed the "minor patient" and determined

that Walker's conduct toward the patient was not inappropriate in the manner suggested in the termination notice.

The lawyer also justified the action taken by Walker, who the governing body alleged failed to meet the interim CEO to hear the doctor's side.

"Dr. Walker asserts that he was attempting to meet with Ms. Muña of his own violation in order to smooth over a previous misunderstanding. According to Dr. Walker, he believed that at 5pm, on Nov. 22, that Ms. Muña had finally agreed to see him. Dr. Walker never knew that others were going to be present at 5pm. I note that the Nov. 23 letter states that Dr. Walker was invited to meet with "us" yesterday, but fails to explain who "us" is or how and when Dr. Walker was supposedly notified of this meeting," according to the lawyer.

The lawyer also disclosed that the claim of insubordination appears to have arisen from Walker's medically reasonable judgment that a particular patient should not undergo the course of treatment recommended by Dr. Sherleen Osman, the hospital's director for

medical affairs. He said that given Walker's years of experience as an orthopedic surgeon, it is "patently unfair" to label professional competence and refusal to endanger the life of a patient as insubordination.

According to the lawyer, CHCC must apologize for the manner in which CHCC caused the termination letter to be delivered to the doctor. He said Walker was sitting at Johnny's with other patrons on Nov. 23 when a CHC security guard flanked by two police officers delivered the notice. The security guard allegedly stated that Walker would be forcibly removed from CHC if he returned to the premises, in full view of other patrons at Johnny's.

"This situation is unfortunate—CHC has lacked an orthopedic surgeon for more than a year. CHC should be striving to keep experienced medical staff, not barring them from the hospital," according to the lawyer who ask for a written response to his letter in 14 days.

Dr. Walker flew back to Idaho last week where he was originally recruited by the corporation.

Husband's video gaming leaves wife on sidelines

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was laid off from work, but my husband, "Keith," works full-time in a factory. We live with his parents. By the time Keith gets home from work and gets cleaned up, it's time to eat dinner. Immediately afterward, we always follow the same routine: We go in our bedroom and he goes on the computer to play video games, while I sit and watch TV and play on my phone.

We love each other and rarely disagree about things, but this isn't fun for me. I have told Keith I feel ignored and I'd love to do something WITH him. He says because our town is smallish, there's not a lot to do that doesn't cost money.

Keith is into the video games, so much so that when we first met, he'd sit in his bedroom and play for hours on end. We're planning a vacation in the next month or so, so it's not like we do nothing at all. But I don't know how to improve our situation.

CALLING FOR HELP IN KOKOMO, IND.

DEAR CALLING FOR HELP: After a hard day's work, your husband may just want to sit down and relax. But that doesn't mean you couldn't schedule some activity together on a weekend—hiking, skating, kayaking, going to an art show or seeing what's scheduled at the convention center. You could also make a date with other young married couples, or occasionally schedule a girls' night out with some of your female friends.

I agree that it's important for you and your husband not to get into a rut. That's why you need to budget so you CAN get out and have some fun together a few times a month.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago I met "Holly," the love of my life. We married and had a child. Soon after our son's birth, I found out Holly had a boyfriend on the side. Our divorce was one of the most traumatic experiences of my life. Because of her instability, I was granted custody of our son.

Since the divorce I have developed an attraction to men. Is this normal after a nasty divorce? I never thought of myself as gay or bi until about a year afterward. I know that I never again want to experience the pain I went through.

I have been celibate now for almost four years, and I'm trying my best to set a good example for my son. I miss having someone to hold and share life with, but in the area where I live, having a gay relationship would cause me to lose my son. Any advice you can offer would be appreciated.

IS THIS NORMAL? IN ARIZONA

DEAR NORMAL: It is important that you determine exactly who you are, whether it is a walking-wounded heterosexual, bisexual or homosexual. A licensed psychotherapist can help you with this, and do it in confidence.

Regardless of your sexual orientation, you should realize that when breakups happen between couples—and that includes male/male, female/female and heterosexual—there is usually heartbreak involved. However, without risk there can be no reward, and celibacy is not the answer. If it turns out that you are, indeed, gay, then you should consider relocating to a more gay-friendly area.

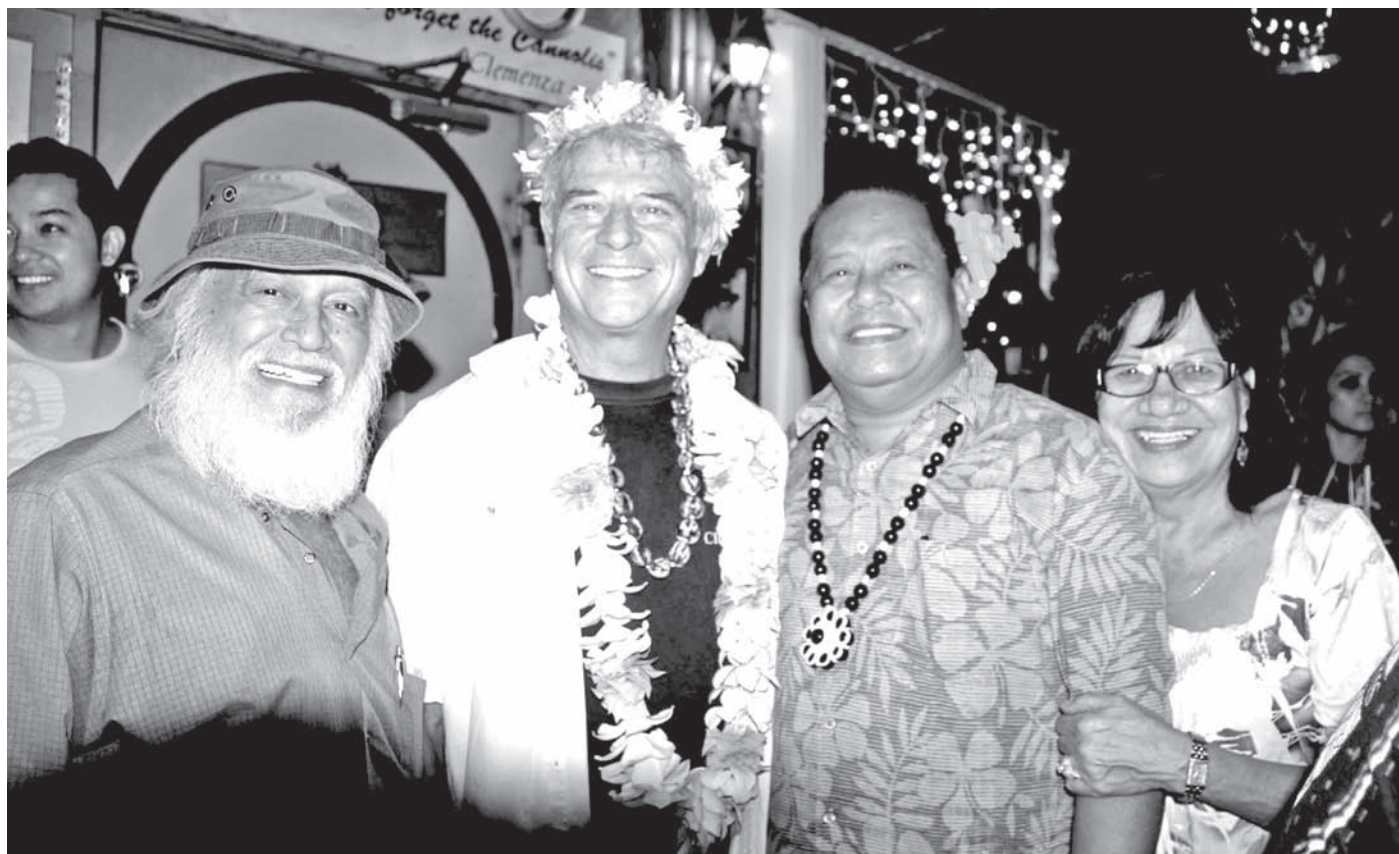
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

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SURPRISE PARTY

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, makes a special appearance at a surprise appreciation party for KSPN 2 sportscaster Bob Coldeen, second from left, at the Godfather's Bar in Garapan Friday night. Also in photo are former representative Stanley Torres, left, and his wife. Coldeen marks his 20th year as a sportscaster for KMCV, now KSPN2.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

KC-130 lands on Tinian's Baker runway

By **LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO**
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—A Marine Corps KC-130J Hercules aircraft landed on Baker runway at Tinian's North Field during exercise Forager Fury II on Dec. 5.

The aircraft, with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force performed the second

landing to be accomplished at Tinian's North Field since 1947.

Prior to the aircraft being able to land at Baker runway, repair work was needed to ensure the runway was suitable conditions, according to Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, commanding officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAW, III MEF.

"The Marines really enjoyed the opportunity to get tactical operation training and experience that they em-

ployed to accomplish this task," said Eyth. "Persevering the runways was number one and exposing an infrastructure that potentially could be used to introduce American military forces into the Marianas for purposes of training."

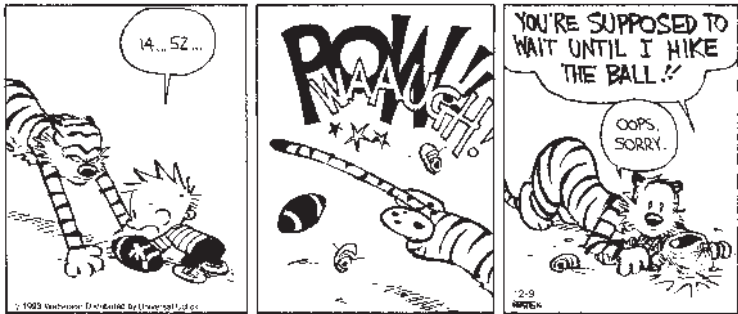
The purpose of exercise FF II is to employ and assess combat power generation and operations in a deployed, austere and unimproved environment.

"We as a squadron are very excited to come out and partici-

pate in FF II for the immense training value that it afforded us," said Eyth. "There is no opportunity for us in Iwakuni, Japan, to employ much of the equipment we have simply because there are no training areas in the vicinity of Iwakuni. To be able to come out here and demonstrate how integrated we are with MAG-12 and operate as an organic aviation ground support capability in a venue such as this and we consider ourselves lucky to have the chance to contribute our piece to making this a very successful exercise."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

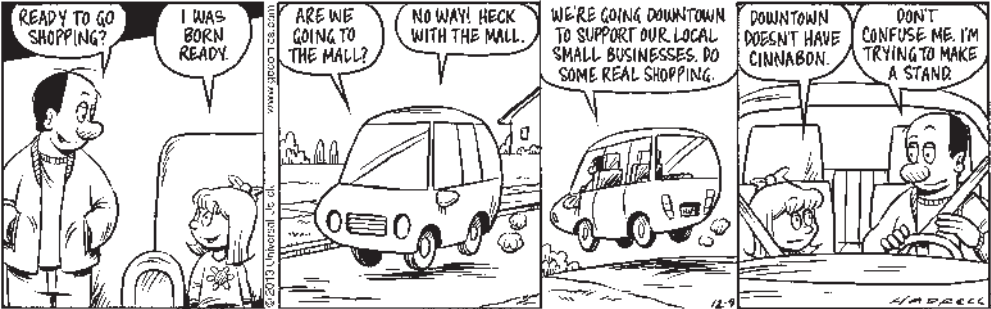


Garfield®



By Jim Davis

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The Duplex



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By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Zinger

5 Awful

8 Chopped

12 Stench

13 Compass pt.

14 Hodge-podge

15 Dalai

16 Belie

18 Makes corrections

20 Bit of corn

21 Informa-tion

23 Yuletide beverage

24 Woe

28 Anger

31 Historic time

32 Spanish appetiz-ers

34 Afternoon get-together

35 "Dragnet" star Jack

37 Prudently silent

39 Sprite

41 Confucian dynasty

42 Establish firmly

45 Optimally

49 Mess

51 Two-wheeler

52 Summer-time pest

53 Beer's cousin

54 Huron neighbor

55 Deviates off

56 Cushion

57 Tear

DOWN

1 Tree trunk

2 Leading man

3 "The Eternal City"

4 German chan-celler, 1969-74

5 Frame for a mattress

6 Black-bird

7 Dilbert's work-place

8 "Saw" genre

9 Stretch out

10 Take a spouse, as

11 Year-end refrain

17 Corral

19 Pub

22 Jellied dish

24 Morning moisture

25 Anger

26 Carpen-try tool

27 Strutt-d ostenta-tiously

29 "Gosh!"

30 Chow down

33 High-lander

36 Swells up

38 Kind of stamp

40 In favor of

42 Nervous

43 1492 vessel

44 Snare

46 Ireland

47 Epider-mis

48 Prepared to drive

50 — carte

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 11-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Simon Helberg, 33; Felicity Huffman, 51; Donny Osmond, 56; Dame Judi Dench, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take your time getting the facts. You will be faced with confusion based on poor information this year if you don't do your research. Change will be necessary with regard to home, family and partnerships. Set reasonable goals and stick to your plan. Letting outsiders interfere will be your downfall. Know what you want and finish what you start. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 21, 29, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel pressured to make a decision regarding your position, status or advancement. Recap what you've done in the past and consider how you can utilize your skills to bring better outcomes. An impulsive decision will not bring good results. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You call the shots. Your wisdom and charm will attract people who can offer favors and information that will help you reach your goals. A partnership will turn into a long and profitable connection. Romance is highlighted. Share your feelings. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll need discipline to finish projects that need to be wrapped up before the end of the year. Offer suggestions, but do not part with your cash. A service you can offer others will be well-received and bring in additional funds. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Concen-trate on getting odd jobs finished. Prepara-tion will make your job easier, allow-

ing you more time to spend doing something enjoyable. Make assessments and changes to your life and overall personal look. Plan a little romance to end your day. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A unique approach or new surroundings will feed your creative imagination. Knowledge and honing your skills will spark an idea that can lead to extra cash. Don't let anyone limit what you can do. Be diplo-matic but firm when faced with opposition. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Rethink your financial strategy. If you've been impulsive or emotional when it comes to spending, pull back and cut corners. Help an older relative or friend, but don't take over. Suggestions or physical assistance is one thing; meddling is another. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change at work or with a partnership will come about quickly. Don't act surprised when you should be prepared to move without skip-ping a beat. Discipline and hard work will pay off. Reconnecting with an old friend should be done cautiously. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get up, get focused and accomplish everything on your to-do list. Using friendly pres-sure to get what you want will work wonders. Social networking will pay off by introducing you to new people, places and possibilities. Love is highlighted. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): En-joy doing the things that ease your stress and add comfort to your life. Stick close to home and protect what you cherish. Don't let emotional uncertainty ruin your day. Recognize

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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an unstable situation and act accordingly. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take on whatever comes your way and you will send an impressive vibe that will help you control what's going on around you. Visiting an inspirational place will have benefits. Make plans with someone you love. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): What you do for others will be beneficial. Per-sonalize a job you've been given. Some-one will recognize your talent and offer you greater stability and hope for the future. A little daydreaming will help you recognize new pos-sibilities. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your inge-nuity, coupled with insight and reliabili-ty, will be your ticket to success. It's what you do, not what you say, that will help you get ahead. Don't let a change throw you off course. Accept the inevitable and keep moving. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a humanitarian. You have vision and a persistent drive to succeed.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eu-genia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★

12/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizon-tally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

APPSCRPTIONS

S C E H A N T I B S T S E T O
D G O G T T R O P E R S P D N
S E N M A N I O E B E E A O L
R E T U P M O C E C N N I C I
O E E E L L I M K D D T N T N
S G L T N V I A E Y I I I O E
N N B P R T D A G D S F T R G
E I I E P V I O N S I E R N P
S N S M I A L O E C Y C I E L
T I S C P O C N N R E R I C E
E M E K N R L M A N A G E N H
L A C H I L O I R E M O T E E
B X C S E N D V H S M R A L A
A E A W A R E N E S S Y A D R
T N E M T A E R T R A C K S T

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Last Friday's Answer: Grain

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Saipan Tribune

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1 – PAINTER

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WHATZIT Solution: Fred Astaire

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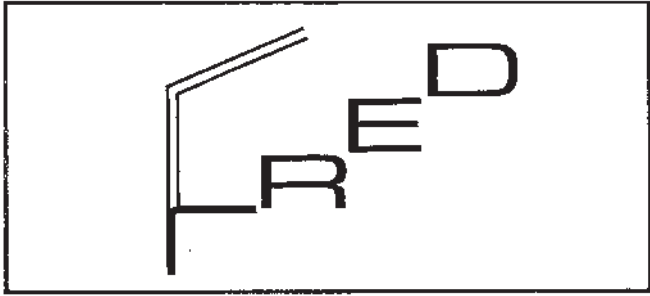
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**Legislative Bureau**
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-003 Position: Web Content Editor
PL-UNGRADED: \$671.42 B/W Opening Date: December 4, 2013
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee Closing Date: December 16, 2013
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Updates the CNMI Legislative website not limited to status tables, calendar, agenda, journals, and legislative documents and information;
- Operates personal computer;
- Maintains the Legislature's website;
- Converts legislative documents to Adobe PDF file format or electronic media format as required;
- Archiving of legislative electronic files;
- Manage legislative email accounts;
- Maintain the legislature's local area network;
- Install upgrades and troubleshoots Windows operating systems as well as category 5 cables and switches;
- Assist legislative and Bureau staff on network and computer-related matters;
- Recommend and upgrade technological needs of the Legislature;
- Performs other duties as assigned.


Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess two years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree in Computer Applications or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education;
- Excellent organizational, analytical, and time management skills, detailed-oriented and ability to multi-task;
- Basic knowledge of HTML;
- Proficiencies in Windows Operating Systems, Microsoft Word and spreadsheet applications.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

**Legislative Bureau**
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-14-002 Position: Fiscal Analyst
PL-UNGRADED: \$1,538.91 B/W Opening Date: December 4, 2013
The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee Closing Date: December 16, 2013
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Conducts budget analysis, monitors agency and institution budgets, and prepares related reports;
- Provides information and assistance on the status of legislative proposals and measures, budgetary and fiscal practices, and prepares summaries and explanations of budget-related reports and proposed legislation;
- Provides assistance in analyzing departmental budget requests, including necessary documentation, investigation, and related budget impact studies;
- Provides technical assistance to the Legislature on cost-benefit analyses or fiscal reports on proposed legislation or current programs;
- Conducts fiscal and general research for Legislative Committees and for individual legislators, prepares reports and analysis on findings, and presents alternative solutions for consideration;
- Drafts bills, resolutions, reports, and amendments;
- Makes oral presentations and responds to questions regarding state budget and fiscal matters;
- When necessary, attends budget hearings, committee meetings, and legislative sessions; and
- Performs other duties as directed.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Must possess a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Public Administration, Business Administration, Accounting, Economics or related field with two years experience; or possess eight years of relevant work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process and the CNMI government budgeting process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis.

Education requirements may be substituted with related experience

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Ellis hits winner and Mavs beat Blazers, 108-106



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Monta Ellis hit a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer and the Dallas Mavericks snapped the Portland Trail Blazers' four-game winning streak with a 108-106 victory on Saturday night.

Ellis finished with 22 points and Dirk Nowitzki had 28 for the Mavericks' third straight win.

Damian Lillard had 32 points for the Blazers, including a 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds left that tied it at 106.

It was just the second loss at home this season for the red-hot Blazers (17-4), who lead the Western Conference and are off to their best start since the 1990-91 season.

Lillard's 3-pointer closed Portland within 90-91 and he added another to tie it with 3:58 left. But Nowitzki made two jumpers to keep the Blazers from taking the lead.

Robin Lopez's hook shot and a pair of free throws from Nicolas Batum evened it again at 98. Nowitzki's 3-point play was followed by Batum's short jumper before Ellis drained a 3-pointer from the corner to make it 104-100 for Dallas with 1:40 left. He added a fadeaway with 45.9 to go.

Batum made a falling-down 3-pointer to pull the Blazers within 106-103 before Lillard's 3 tied it.

Batum finished with 22 points for the Blazers, who were coming off a 130-98 rout of the Utah Jazz on Friday night. LaMarcus Aldridge added 19 points and 13 rebounds for his 11th double-double this season.

The Mavs (13-8) were coming off a 100-97 victory at New Orleans on Wednesday.

DeJuan Blair's layup gave the Mavs an early 22-16 lead, but Aldridge dunked to even it at 28 late in the first half, and Dorell Wright's layup put Portland in front. The Blazers held on to a slim advantage until late in the half, when Jose Calderon's layup and Shawn Marion's dunk pulled Dallas into a 55-51 lead for a 55-53 advantage at the half.

The Mavericks took a 67-61 lead on Nowitzki's 3-pointer, then extended it on consecutive baskets from Blair.

Portland responded with a 10-0 run capped by Batum's 3-pointer and dunk to tie it at 71. Calderon's layup snapped the run and Dallas took a 79-76 lead into the final quarter.

Gal Mekel's 3-pointer gave Dallas an 85-78 lead with 8:40 left.

Portland trailed 89-80 but charged



Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge, left, looks to pass against Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki, from Germany, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013.

back with consecutive baskets from Lillard and Aldridge. After Vince Carter's layup, Lillard hit on a jumper that was countered by Bernard James' layup for Dallas to make it 93-86.

Pacers 111, Spurs 100

In San Antonio, Paul George scored 28 points and the Indiana Pacers beat San Antonio, ending an 11-game skid against the Spurs.

David West had 20 points and Lance Stephenson scored 15 for the Pacers, who enjoyed a 41-34 rebounding edge. Roy Hibbert and Luis Scola each had 12 points and 10 boards.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points for San Antonio, which has dropped three of five. Manu Ginobili added 16 points, Tony Parker had 13 and Tim Duncan finished with 10.

The Pacers' last victory against the Spurs came in April 2007 in Indianapolis. Their last victory in San Antonio was nearly 12 years ago.

The Pacers had seven players score in double figures and shot 54 percent from the floor.

Heat 103, Timberwolves 82

In Minneapolis, LeBron James had 21 points, eight assists and 14 boards for his first double-digit rebounding game of the season, helping Miami bounce back after consecutive losses.

Dwyane Wade had 19 points and

five rebounds in his return from a two-game absence due to injury and illness and the Heat controlled the glass after getting hammered on the boards by Detroit and Chicago.

Kevin Martin scored 19 points for the Timberwolves. But they sorely missed Kevin Love, who was with his family following the death of his grandmother on Wednesday.

The Wolves shot a season-low 29.3 percent while the Heat made 55 percent of their shots to overcome 20 turnovers.

Cavaliers 88, Clippers 82

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving and Tristan Thompson scored 20 points apiece to lead Cleveland to the victory.

Irving, coming off the first scoreless game of his career, was 6 for 15 from the field and 7 for 8 at the free-throw line. Thompson also had 13 rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 18 points.

Jamal Crawford scored 19 points for the Clippers, who have lost three of four. Chris Paul scored 13 points while DeAndre Jordan added 12.

Clippers forward Blake Griffin and Cavaliers center Anderson Varejao got into a scuffle with 2:21 to play. Varejao bumped his shoulder into Griffin, who responded by shoving Varejao to the floor. Players and coaches from both teams surrounded the two players.

Varejao was given a personal foul while Griffin and Cleveland's Jarrett

Jack were hit with technicals.

Warriors 108, Grizzlies 82

In Memphis, Tennessee, Klay Thompson scored 30 points and David Lee had 23 to power Golden State to the road win.

Stephen Curry scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half as the Warriors ended an 11-game losing streak against the Grizzlies. Curry also had 15 assists, two more Memphis had as a team.

Mike Miller led the Grizzlies with 16 points, while Jon Leuer and Zach Randolph added 15 points apiece. Kosta Koufos had 10 points and 16 rebounds.

The Grizzlies shot 37 percent from the field. Their injury woes continued in the second quarter when Quincy Pondexter left with a sprained right foot.

Pistons 92, Bulls 75

In Chicago, Brandon Jennings scored 33 points to lead Detroit to its fourth consecutive victory.

Andre Drummond (14 rebounds), Greg Monroe (12) and Josh Smith (10) helped Detroit to a 51-44 rebounding edge as the Pistons stretched their road winning streak to four games.

It was Detroit's first regular-season win in Chicago since Feb. 24, 2006.

The Bulls shot 33 percent from the floor while playing without leading scorer Luol Deng, who was sidelined

by tightness in his left calf. Taj Gibson led Chicago with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Nets 90, Bucks 82

In Milwaukee, Brook Lopez scored 32 points and Joe Johnson had 15 as Brooklyn beat Milwaukee.

Lopez dominated inside, making 11 of 13 shots from the field. He also had seven rebounds and four assists as the Nets bounced back from Thursday's embarrassing 113-83 loss to New York.

Alan Anderson added 13 points for Brooklyn.

O.J. Mayo led the Bucks with 22 points and John Henson added 18 points and seven rebounds. Milwaukee has the worst record in the Eastern Conference at 4-16.

Nuggets 103, 76ers 92

In Philadelphia, Jordan Hamilton hit three straight 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter to help Denver overcome a slow start.

The Nuggets led by four with 4:28 to go before Hamilton, who finished with 13 points, made three 3s in a span of 67 seconds. Nate Robinson led the way with 20 points for the Nuggets, who were playing their fourth game in five nights and had dropped their previous two.

Tony Wroten finished with 20 points for the Sixers, who have dropped 10 of 12.

Both teams played without their starting point guards.

Denver's Ty Lawson was sidelined with a left hamstring strain and Sixers rookie Michael Carter-Williams spent his third night in the hospital while recovering from an infection on his right knee.

Kings 112, Jazz 102, OT

In Salt Lake City, DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and Isaiah Thomas scored 23 of his 26 points after half-time to help Sacramento end a six-game losing streak with a victory over Utah.

Trey Burke gave the Jazz their final lead at 102-101 with a 3-pointer, but the Kings scored the final 11 points of overtime. Burke finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Thomas clinched it when he stole the ball from Alec Burks and got a return pass from Cousins for a layup to give the Kings a 110-102 lead with 57 seconds left.

Kings guard Ben McLemore made a 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 97-97.

No. 10 Michigan St. shocks No. 2 Ohio St., 34-24



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—

Connor Cook was determined to shake things up in the Big Ten title game.

By the end of the night, the sophomore quarterback's teammates were bouncing up and down right along with him.

No. 10 Michigan State rallied from a seven-point third-quarter deficit by scoring the final 17 points Saturday night to upset No. 2 Ohio State 34-24 and deny the Buckeyes a chance to play for the BCS na-

tional championship.

Cook and the Spartans were more than happy to oblige.

"I think we heard people talk bad about us all year. This wasn't the first week where we heard people say negative things about us as an offense or as a football team, Cook said after throwing a 9-yard TD pass with 11:41 left to five the Spartans a 27-24 lead. "I think we were underdogs in the majority of the games we played this year. It really didn't affect us."

But the Spartans' big win may prove costly in the league's

bigger picture.

A win would have made No. 2 Ohio State (12-1) a virtual lock to play in its fourth BCS title game, and there was speculation the Spartans (12-1) might go to Pasadena anyway for the Rose Bowl, regardless of Saturday night's result. Instead, the Spartans are still likely to book their first Rose Bowl trip since the 1987 season, while the Buckeyes must wait Sunday night to find out which bowl they'll play in - and whether they'll play in a BCS game.

Michigan State's victory put Auburn, who the Buckeyes

were rooting for last week against Alabama, in the title game against Florida.

To the Buckeyes, it was a deflating night.

"You know it's going to haunt all of us, I imagine, for a little while," Meyer said. "But that's part of the game."

It was a game that almost defied logic.

Ohio State came into the game with the nation's longest winning streak (24), had not lost under Meyer in two seasons and had one of the nation's most productive offenses and under-rated defenses.

Michigan State turned the conventional wisdom upside down by scoring the first 17 points. Then the nation's stingiest defense gave up the next 24 points as Braxton Miller, Carlos Hyde & Co. took command.

Cook responded to the challenge by driving the Spartans for a field goal, hooking up with the wide open Josiah Price in the flat of the end zone and then burned 3 1/2 critical minutes on the clinching drive, capped by Jeremy Langford's sealing 26-yard TD run.

Cook finished 24 of 40 for a career-high 304 yards and three scores. Langford ran 24 times for 128 yards, becoming the first player this season to top

100 yards against the Buckeyes this season.

For Michigan State, it was a milestone night. It won its 12th game for the first time in school history, completed a perfect conference season and extended its own winning streak to nine—something it had not done since starting 1966 at 9-0. Most important, the players got to hold the roses for the first time since 1987 and the celebration began even before the final seconds ticked off the clock.

"We're going to live this one for a while, live it for a month," coach Mark Dantonio said. "But it's important that we finish what we started and that will end with a bowl game."

Cano, Beltran, Granderson, Feldman find new homes

By **BEN WALKER**
AP BASEBALL WRITER

The Seattle Mariners shook up baseball's free-agent market, reaching a rich deal with Robinson Cano on a day when Carlos Beltran, Curtis Granderson and other familiar names found new homes.

Scott Feldman and Nate McLouth also landed in different spots Friday. Boston slugger Mike Napoli and New York Yankees pitcher Hiroki Kuroda, however, decided to stay put.

A few days before the winter meetings began outside Orlando, Fla., plenty of teams were busy.

The Yankees kept up their dizzying offseason makeover, with All-Stars coming and going—Beltran joined them, Granderson left.

The Mariners made the kind of splash they've wanted for nearly a decade. They reached agreement with Cano, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Friday.

ESPN reported earlier Friday that the contract was worth \$240 million for 10 years.

The person told the AP that the deal was pending a physical that had not yet been scheduled. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

Music mogul Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation has partnered with CAA Baseball to represent Cano, was in Seattle for talks that began Thursday. Agent Brodie Van Wagenen of CAA Baseball and Juan Perez of Roc Nation Sports also were in attendance.

The 31-year-old Cano had spent his entire career with the Yankees and was a five-time All-Star. He hit .314 with 27 homers and 107 RBIs last season.



Dominican Republic baseball players, from left, Robinson Cano, Hanley Ramirez and Jose Reyes ride atop a truck during the 2013 World Baseball Classic victory celebration in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013.

The Yankees had offered \$175 million over seven years. Cano goes from a team that has missed the playoffs only twice in 19 years to a club that hasn't been in the postseason since 2001.

"He was a great Yankee. He was a great player. I think everybody tried hard to get the deal done. We just never got close enough obviously. We wish him the best. We hope he has a long, healthy career,"

Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said.

After recently adding outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury and catcher Brian McCann, the Yankees kept spending.

They reached a deal with Beltran for three years and \$45 million, two people familiar with the contract told the AP. The agreement was first reported by the New York Daily News.



The 36-year-old Beltran is an eight-time All-Star and one of the game's best postseason players. He hit .296 with 24 homers and 84 RBIs for St. Louis this year, adding two homers and 15 RBIs in October while making his first World Series appearance.

Granderson is moving across town to join the Mets. The outfielder agreed to a \$60 million, four-year contract, a person fa-

miliar with the deal said.

The three-time All-Star, who turns 33 in spring training, hit .229 with seven homers and 15 RBIs this year, when wrist and hand injuries limited him to 61 games. He topped 40 homers in each of the previous two seasons.

Feldman got a three-year deal with Houston, with the 111-loss Astros hoping he can lend leadership to a young rotation.

Feldman, who turns 31 early next year, was 12-12 with a 3.86 ERA in 30 total starts for the Chicago Cubs and Baltimore last season.

"Everybody starts in this game young. You can really learn a lot just by watching anybody. ... I can learn from them and they can also learn from me," he said. "It's just going to be great to have a group of guys that works well and we can all get on the same page, help each other out and have a successful season."

McLouth and the Washington Nationals reached a deal, said a person familiar with the contract. The 32-year-old outfielder hit .258 with 12 home runs and 36 RBIs in 146 games for Baltimore last season.

Napoli tweeted that "The beard is coming back to Boston!!! Couldn't be happier!!!"

The first baseman with the bushy beard reached agreement with the World Series champions on a two-year contract for \$32 million.

The 32-year-old Napoli hit .259 with 23 home runs and 92 RBIs this year in his first season with the Red Sox.

Kuroda's return fills one of three holes in the Yankees' rotation behind CC Sabathia and Ivan Nova. The right-hander, who turns 39 in February, got off to a strong start last season before fading down the stretch. He finished 11-13 with a 3.31 ERA in 32 starts covering 201 1-3 innings.

Several reports indicated the deal was for one year at about \$16 million.

Woods keeps 2-shot lead on tough day at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—After a day of so much uncertainty about where the ball was going, Tiger Woods landed in a place where the outcome is rarely in doubt.

He was in the lead.

Woods survived a rough round of swirling swing at Sherwood on Saturday with two birdies on his last three holes. That enabled him to salvage an even-par 72 and maintain his two-shot lead over Zach Johnson going into the final round of the World Challenge.

Woods' round featured a tee shot into the water, a three-putt from 6 feet and a long delay on the 18th fairway as he tried to figure out which way the wind was blowing. He took a little off an 8-iron when he felt the wind switch yet again and holed a 12-foot birdie putt.

"I'm pleased at having the lead—not real pleased with the way I putted today," Woods said. "I left a few out there today."

But he wasn't alone.

The average score was just under 73, and everyone ran into problems somewhere along the way, particularly on the 15th, a par 3 that played to an average score of 4.17. Johnson made two double bogeys on par 3s on the back nine, and didn't feel as though he hit a poor shot on either hole. It was simply a matter of getting the wind to cooperate.

"I didn't take myself out of it," said Johnson, who also birdied two of the last three holes for a 72.

Woods was at 11-under 205, two shots ahead of Johnson, just like he started the day.

There are 18 holes to go, and Woods has a 48-5 lead worldwide when he has the outright lead going into Sunday. He has won all four times with the lead this year, and the last time he gave up a lead on Sunday was at Sherwood in 2010, when Graeme McDow-

ell came from four shots behind and won in a playoff.

It can be done, and two shots can be erased in one hole in conditions like this.

Woods is trying to end his year with a sixth title, which would be the ninth time he's done that in his career. What began as an elite field of 18 players—all of them from the top 30 in the world ranking—



has effectively been whittled to three barring a late charge from deep in the pack.

Bubba Watson was within one shot of the lead briefly until a three-putt bogey on the 18th, and two late birdies by Woods. Watson had a 69 and was four shots behind. No one else was within six shots of Woods.

"This golf course is very difficult," Watson said. "Right now, there's a pretty good player leading. He's won here before. He knows this golf course pretty well. But I'm just going

to come out there and play. I've shot under par my last few rounds. I want to keep doing that. If I can shoot in the 60s, give myself a chance, we'll see what happens."

Rory McIlroy had the low round Saturday of 68, and that included a double bogey on the par-3 15th, which was playing 193 yards from an elevated tee. Keegan Bradley and Steve Stricker each took a 7 on the par 3.

Johnson was one shot out of the lead when his 5-iron went into the creek, and it wasn't particularly close. He made double bogey. Woods hit 6-iron well to the left, and while he three-putted from long range for bogey, that was about par for the day.

"I thought Zach hit it perfect," Woods said. "He hit a little cut 5 and it was right on the flag. I mean, I thought it was the perfect flight to get there. I had a 6, and I knew that if my ball kicked up at all, it wasn't going to get there after seeing

his ball get smoked at the end. So I went ahead and flipped it over to the left and bailed out."

Johnson briefly took the lead with a birdie on No. 9, though Woods caught him with a birdie on the 10th. Johnson lost momentum with one bad shot, a fairway metal for his second shot on the par-5 11th that went right into a bed of leaves under a small cluster of trees. He tried to punch under the trees and onto the green, but his shot hit one branch and led to bogey.

Johnson made a double bogey on the par-3 12th and just like that was three shots behind. He got back to within one shot on the next hole when Woods three-putted from 6 feet for bogey and Johnson made bogey.

Ultimately, they ended up where they started the day, putting Woods one round away from his sixth win at Sherwood. The tournament is moving to Florida next year.

MGM for Pacquiao’s next fight; foe unknown



Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, right, lands a left to the head of Brandon Rios of the United States during their WBO world welterweight title fight Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013, in Macau.

Babauta is SGA November Ace

Juan L. Babauta won the November Ace of the Month Tournament of the Saipan Golfers Association executive director carded a gross of 82 (42-40) but finished with a 1-under score after his 11 handicap was deducted.

Teack shot a 41 in the front nine before improving by two strokes in the back for a gross

score of 80. Minus his 13 handicap, he finished with a month’s lowest core of 67 net to best 16 others competitors.

Balakrishna shot a 70 net built around a 77 gross. He shot 39 and 38 in the front and back, respectively.

With the November win, Babauta joins Teack (Octo-

ber), Rick Kautz (September), Greg Sablan (August), Ray San Nicolas (July), John “Nani” Cruz (June), Nick Sablan (May), Ray Dela Cruz (April), Steve Balakrishna (March), James Whang (February), and Ed Sablan (January) for SGA’s yearend Ace of Aces tournament.

In the longest drive compe-

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Manny Pacquiao will return to MGM Grand in Las Vegas for his next fight on April 12 against a still unknown opponent.

“We’ll know before Christmas,” renowned promoter Bob Arum told Filipino sportswriters over the phone yesterday.

The short list of Pacquiao’s probable opponents is headed by unbeaten American Tim Bradley, who handed the Fighter of the Decade a discredited split decision loss on June 9, 2012 at MGM.



Pacquiao’s forgettable season ended when he got knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez in the sixth round on Dec. 8, also at MGM.

The Filipino ring icon resurrected his career with a lopsided unanimous decision over Brandon Rios last Nov. 24 in Macau.

Bradley bested Marquez by split last October and announced his willingness to fight Pacquiao again, if only to prove that he’s really the better fighter.

Marquez, on the other hand, has nixed a fifth fight against Pacquiao despite a juicy \$12 million offer.

tition, Matt Chergualaf won in hole No. 17 and Ed Manibusan in hole No. 18.

The par 3s were secured by James Whang (No. 6), Larry Deleon Guerrero (No. 8), Ed Manibusan (No. 12), and John “Nani” Cruz (No. 15).

SGA’s Ace of Aces tournament will be played on Dec. 14 and 15 at a yet-to-be-determined venue. The awards banquet is tentatively set for Jan. 11, 2014. *(Saipan Tribune)*

JAPANESE

From Page 28

instead of thinking you have a long flat ride going to the finish (the old start/finish line at PIC),” said Willet, who broke her time (3:05:40) last year.

The three-time champion rode with the lead pack all the way to Coral Ocean Point. China’s Zhiyong Zhou was also on the lead group and for a while stole the thunder from the pros

when he pulled away at the Airport Road section. However, Zhou faded away, as the group headed to San Vicente.

Then at the 25K point (at Kagman Mobil Station) Dorovskikh and Yamamoto were still together with several others. The two leaders then pulled away from the main peloton on their way out of Kingfisher Golf Link. Past the 50K mark and heading down Radar Station, Yamamoto managed to create some distance from Doro-

vsikh, but the Russian caught up with him on their way back to Marianas Resort.

By the time the two pro riders made it to the Mariana Resort heading to the final 25 kilometers of the race, only 20 seconds separated Dorovskikh and Yamamoto.

Willet headed back to Mariana Resort about eight minutes ahead of Carey and eventually cruised to victory.

“I knew that if I could keep a safe distance from Miekio head-

ing up to the Bird Island Lookout, I know I will be in good position to win,” Willet said.

Though she had another runner-up finish to Willet, Carey said she was satisfied with her time, which was faster than the 3:17:29 she posted last year.

“The new course was great. I had a trouble-free race and love to see and ride with old friends,” said Carey, who competed in her last race of the season and will start the year with a 24-hour bike race.

“I hope to come back here for XTERRA Saipan and become a stronger biker,” the 35-year-old Guam pro said.

Willet also aims to return to Saipan for next year’s Hell of Marianas and defend her title.

“Saipan is a good place to race with its good weather and nice and challenging course,” Willet said.

Meanwhile, results in age group divisions of the road and MTB races will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

CNMI

From Page 28

for the free kick near the left center a few feet away from the box with Collado a step or two slower from saving the ball as he slid to his right.

Guam also had a free kick midway in the first half, but it went over the goal. The visiting team had some attempts, too in

the opening 35 minutes of play, but the CNMI’s defense stepped in quickly.

Despite holding Guam scoreless in the first half, Angeles said the CNMI players were told to keep their guards up and go for two more insurance goals.

“We knew Guam is capable of making a comeback and two goals in the first half were not enough to give you a win. We told our players to try scoring

two more and they responded to the challenge,” Angeles said.

The third goal came in the 47th minute with Joshua De Leon winning a mad scramble near inside the box and hitting a straight shot that caught Collado flatfooted anew, as he was leaning toward his left anticipating a cross.

Now ahead by three, the CNMI used its bench to close the game. Alex Park was one

of the substitutes, reporting for duty in the 49th minute and scoring the Commonwealth’s fourth and last goal 13 minutes later. Park connected on the shot off a corner kick from Sunjoon Tenorio.

After beating the visiting squad, the CNMI U12 National Team was presented with a trophy during a brief awards ceremony. Guam Football Association president George Lai

handed the trophy to Tenorio, the team captain. Also present at the trophy presentation was Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan.

Meanwhile, the CNMI U19 Team challenged Quality Distributors in the second game in the Marianas Cup and detailed results of the match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*’s Tuesday edition.

BLUE

From Page 28

in 12 games. Blue Haus swept the double-round robin elimination to top the six-team field before routing D&Q Degree in the semis to set up a title match with the erstwhile champion.

In the one-game finals, it seemed Blue Haus was headed for a blowout when it took a 47-27 advantage at the break, behind the 14 and 12 first half points of Junar Guiab and Edgar Pangelinan, respectively. However, the big lead was instantly brought to single digits, 51-47, and Armatech was back in contention after launching a 20-4 scoring run in the first five minutes of the third quarter.

Threatened by Armatech’s rally, Blue Haus answered with a 9-0 blitz to reclaim the twin-digit spread, 60-47, but the former countered with a 9-0 wind-up in the last 2:20 of the third quarter to slice the deficit to four anew, 56-60.

Armatech continued its uphill climb, starting the first one and a half minutes of the fourth with a 9-3 tear capped by Sonny Ebuon’s right corner triple to grab the lead, 65-63. However, Blue Haus quickly regained the upper hand with Tony Diaz also connecting a trey from the right key, 66-65.

Blue Haus went on to widen the gap anew, as it held Armatech scoreless in the next three minutes. The dethroned cham-

pion smade one final comeback, cutting the deficit to 5, 69-74, after Martin Moreno made a pair of free throws and Bruce Berline had an under-goal stab, about four minutes left in the game. However, Gus Palacios canned a triple to beat the 24-second shot clock in the ensuing play and that sparked a short 7-0 run and virtually sealed Blue Haus’ title win.

Pangelinan top-scored for Blue Haus with his 17 points, while Guiab chipped in 16. Three other Blue Haus players also had twin digits with Francis Rebuyon adding 12, Diaz contributing 11, and Edsel Mendoza finishing with 10 before leaving the game due to injury early in the third. Pangelinan made the

bulk of his points in the second quarter, as he dropped three triples to turn a slim 18-17 advantage to a promising 20-point lead.

Moreno led Armatech’s losing cause with his 21 markers.

Meanwhile in the battle for third place, Laguna/Erika’s Catering routed D&Q Degree, 143-91, behind the record-breaking performance of Rodney Catalla.

Catalla drained 19 triples to set a new league mark, eclipsing the 16 treys of James Abuy while playing for Armatech last season. Catalla finished with 59 points and drilled 10 straight triples in the fourth quarter. He nailed four shots from the parking lot earlier in the final canto.

Third Place
Laguna 143 – Catalla 59, Tabora 40, Buhay 15, Lansang 8, Darag 6, Zapata 2.

D&Q Degree 91 – Rabago 32, Valdez 15, Echavez 12, Pablo 9, Jinang 8, de la Torre 8.

Scoring by quarters: 23-26, 56-46, 93-68, 143-91.

Finals
Blue Haus 88 – Pangelinan 17, Guiab 16, Rebuyon 12, Diaz 11, Mendoza 10, Santos 7, G. Palacios 7, F. Palacios 2, Fernandez 1.

Armatech 79 – Moreno 21, Montano 16, Berline 14, Ebuon 12, Malasarte 4, Park 4, Gabaldon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 47-27, 60-56, 88-79.

Also back on Pacquiao’s radar are unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr., former sparring partner Ruslan Provodnikov and even former victim Miguel Cotto, who was at ringside during Pacquiao-Rios.

Arum and Pacquiao are open to a megabuck bout with Mayweather, while Provodnikov doesn’t want to fight Pacquiao owing to the friendship they developed while preparing for Bradley.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	12	.429	—
Toronto	6	12	.333	1½
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	2
Brooklyn	6	14	.300	2½
New York	5	13	.278	2½

Southeast Division

Miami	15	5	.750	—
Atlanta	11	10	.524	4½
Washington	9	10	.474	5½
Charlotte	9	11	.450	6
Orlando	6	13	.316	8½

Central Division

Indiana	18	2	.900	—
Detroit	10	10	.500	8
Chicago	8	10	.444	9
Cleveland	7	13	.350	11
Milwaukee	4	16	.200	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	15	4	.789	—
Houston	14	7	.667	2
Dallas	13	8	.619	3
New Orleans	9	10	.474	6
Memphis	9	10	.474	6

Northwest Division

Portland	17	4	.810	—
Oklahoma City	14	4	.778	1½
Denver	12	8	.600	4½
Minnesota	9	11	.450	7½
Utah	4	18	.182	13½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	13	8	.619	—
Golden State	12	9	.571	1
Phoenix	11	9	.550	1½
L.A. Lakers	10	9	.526	2
Sacramento	5	13	.278	6½

WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) — Scores Saturday from the World Challenge, an exhibition event at the 7,023-yard, par-72 Sherwood Country Club:

Third Round

Tiger Woods	71-62-72=205
Zach Johnson	67-68-72=207
Bubba Watson	70-70-69=209
Matt Kuchar	68-68-76=212
Webb Simpson	73-71-69=213
Jason Day	76-68-70=214
Graeme McDowell	72-67-75=214
Jim Furyk	72-69-74=215
Bill Haas	73-68-74=215
Ian Poulter	76-67-73=216
Rory McIlroy	73-77-68=218
Keegan Bradley	75-68-75=218
Hunter Mahan	70-80-72=222
Lee Westwood	74-75-74=223
Steve Stricker	75-74-74=223
Jason Dufner	74-71-78=223
Dustin Johnson	74-79-72=225
Jordan Spieth	77-72-77=226

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7th Annual Hell of Marianas

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Erico Castro, Jerome Diyco, and Nap Dizon ride together on their way to Kagman during last Saturday's 7th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



Bikers head to Radar Station.



Tina Goodwin, right, and Heather Kennedy, left, join the last wave of bikers heading out to the course.



Charles Cepeda of Pacific Trading, Co. hands water to Theron Holloway at the aid station in front of Mariana Resort.



Wei Wang, Mieko Carey, and Peter Prestley try to catch up with the lead group as they navigate Papago.



Bikers in the lead pack head out of Kagman.



The main peloton cruises along Coral Ocean Point Road.



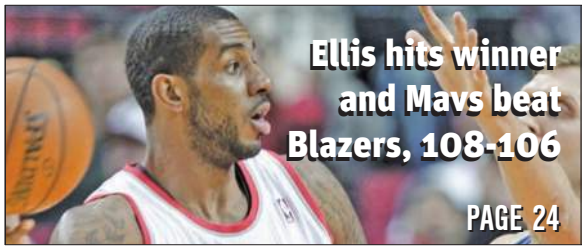
Bikers make their turn at the American Memorial Park.



Florence Antonio smiles for the camera on his way to the Bird Island Lookout.



Father Ryan Jimenez smiles for the camera on his way to the Last Command Post.



Ellis hits winner
and Mavs beat
Blazers, 108-106

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



Cano, Beltran,
Granderson,
Feldman find
new homes

PAGE 25

28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI shuts out Guam in Marianas Cup



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U12 National Team players and coaches pose with their trophy after beating Guam, 4-0, in yesterday's 2013 Marianas Football Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. Also in the photo are Guam Football Association president George Lai, right, and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U12 National Team coasted to a 4-0 victory over Guam in yesterday's 2013 Marianas Football Cup at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

A strong throw from goalkeeper Clayton Izuka and an error by Guam goalie Jeremy Luke Collado early in the game gave the CNMI momentum en route to the shutout win. Izuka threw the ball over to Guam's defensive line with Steven Martin and one Guam defender battling in a foot race and chasing the ball. The leather eventually dropped inside the penalty box and bounced off the hands off Collado before going in to put CNMI in the lead just six minutes into the game.

"Actually that kind of play

was done during our three scrimmages before we met Guam. We knew Clayton is capable of going for a strong and accurate throw, so the instruction was to try it if there are opportunities with our attackers running after the ball. After the Guam goalie fumbled, our players gained much more confidence and they became more aggressive," head coach Jershin Angeles said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

With momentum on its side and the crowd cheering them on, the CNMI bets dominated possession in the first half, which ended with the host team ahead, 2-0, after Anthony Fruit scored on a free kick three minutes before the opening frame wrapped up. The CNMI midfielder went

See CNMI on Page 26



Japanese pro tops Hell of Marianas



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japan's Kasuhiro Yamamoto smiles as he is about to cross the finish line ahead of Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh during last Saturday's 7th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle.

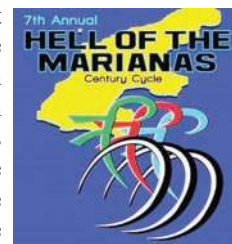
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese pro Kasuhiro Yamamoto beat Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh in a down-to-the-wire finish in the 7th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle.

Yamamoto went for a sprint (around the last 50 meters) and looked back at his gassed out foe before raising both his arms in triumph in last Saturday's race. The Japanese biker completed the 100-kilometer race in 2:56:38, edging the 2:56:39 of Dorovskikh.

"It was a close battle since the

start. He tried to gain distance from me and then I pushed, too and got ahead. It was like that, he pushed and I answered back. Then in the last one kilometer, I took the lead anew, but I knew he was staying close, so I went for the sprint. I was happy that when I looked back, he was no longer pushing," the Hell first-



timer said.

Joining Yamamoto and Dorovskikh in the Top 3 was Hell returnee Ka On Cho, who timed in at 3:05:50, less than three minutes behind overall third finisher and women's champion Jodie Willet. The Aussie pro made it to Mariana Resort at the 3:03:44 mark to notch her third straight championship and finish way ahead of Mieko Carey (3:15:09) and Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa (4:09:11).

"It was another good finish for me and I love the modified course. It was nice to have a lot of company going to PIC and then take the climb and steep turns in the last 25 kilometers of the race. The weather was nice and I really love having the uphill road close to the finish line

See JAPANESE on Page 26

Blue Haus dethrones Armatech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus weathered a second quarter storm to beat MDX/Armatech, 88-79, in the winner-take-all finals of the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus lost a 20-point halftime lead, but played steady in the fourth quarter to dethrone Armatech and take the Masters crown with an unbeaten record

See BLUE on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Edsel Mendoza goes up for a left-handed shot against three Armatech defenders during the third quarter of their title game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.